

PC Update

November 1999

Volume 16

Issue 10

**Fax and Internet Convergence
Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
PGP Security Suite
Computer Fraud
CorelDraw 9**



**Training Courses
Special Interest Groups
and lots more**

**Plus
Being Owned by a Small Farm**

*Bob Muirhead tells how computers assist
in the management of his small farm*

PC Update is the monthly magazine of
Melbourne PC User Group Inc.
A0003293V

ISSN 1031-8208

Print Post Approved 320258/0008



TELEPHONE LINE SHARING '99

Australian Made Solutions for Businesses of All Sizes

OPERATE any FAX and/or MODEM on any VOICE line, with or without FaxStream Duet

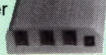
VOICE - FAX

Choose **EASY-CONNECT PLUS** for no compromise Fax reception on any Voice line! Integrate Any Fax (or Modem) into any Telephone Line using your existing number and/or a FaxStream Duet number. Completely Automatic and Transparent operation, without Compromise. No special wiring, any device at any location.



FAXSTREAM DUET

Choose our Low Cost **FAXMATE** device when you wish to use your existing Fax Machine or Modem with the new Telstra FaxStream Duet service. Diverts calls made to your new Fax number direct to your Fax device and calls to your other number to your telephone. Connects in minutes to ANY telephone socket.



VOICE - FAX - MODEM

Choose **EASY-CONNECT PRO** for no compromise Fax and Modem reception on any Voice line! Automatic Voice, Fax and Modem operation all on one line using your existing number and/or a FaxStream Duet number and/or EasyCall Multiple Number. Scanning Facility will allow your Fax to be used as a Scanner for your PC.



OPERATE your MODEM, MULTIPLE MODEMS, or your EFT-POS on your FAX LINE

AUTO MODEM RECEPTION

Choose **FMX-PRO** when you wish to fit a Modem to your Fax line and the Modem also needs to receive data calls. Directs Fax calls to your Fax and Data Calls to Modem. Barge-In protection is provided to prevent one device interrupting the other while it is in use.



OUTGOING MODEM or EFT-POS

Choose **AUTO-CONNECT** when you wish to fit a Modem or EFT-POS unit to your Fax line, to make OUTGOING calls. Provides automatic connection on dialing. Other device is then locked out. Ideal for connection of Payphones, Modems and EFT-POS to any Fax, Commander, PABX or any type of Telephone line.



MULTIPLE MODEMS

Choose **AUTO-SELECT** when two or more Modems need to be connected to a Fax or dedicated Modem line. Fit up to eight Modems, or seven Modems and one Fax to the same line. Incoming calls are automatically routed to any device. Barge-in protection is provided.



IMPROVE the EFFICIENCY or PROFESSIONALISM of any ordinary TELEPHONE LINE

MUSIC OR MESSAGE ON HOLD FACILITY FOR ANY LINE

No longer is this important business facility restricted to Commander or PABX systems. Simply connect any radio, cassette, digital player, or even your PC to this low cost unit and add a professional touch to any existing line!



TELEPHONE CALL TRANSFER

Now you can answer a call on one telephone and then transfer the call to another telephone fitted to the same line, using your existing telephones. You can even use your phones as an intercom. No special wiring required. Up to 8 extensions per line. Barge-in protection is also provided.



DIGITAL MESSAGE CENTRE FOR MESSAGE ON HOLD

HIGH QUALITY Royalty Free Generic or Customized Digital Message for new installations or as a direct 'plug in replacement' for a Radio on Hold connected to any PABX, Commander or Key Telephone System.



DOOR STATION FOR ANY LINE

When a visitor presses a supplied door phone mounted at your front door or gate, your telephones will ring allowing you to answer and converse from any telephone. If your line is in use, a Call Interrupt facility will alert you. You can even open the gate or door with a command from your telephone.



HIGH QUALITY INTERCOM SYSTEM

INTERPHONE provides LOUD, CLEAR, telephone quality INTERCOM communication for 2 to 64 telephone handsets. Simply pick up any telephone and dial the desired telephone. InterPhone uses its own telephone cable, but does not connect to a Telecom line.



TWO LINE SELECTOR

Now you can connect TWO telephones lines (Telstra, Optus, ISDN or Tie Line) to one Fax, Modem, Cordless Telephone, Answering Machine or any Telephone device. Receive incoming calls from either line. Make outgoing calls on either line.



Turn ON, Turn OFF or RESET your PC, NETWORK or any ELECTRICAL device by TELEPHONE

REMOTE TELEPHONE ACTIVATOR

RTA will allow you to call in on your telephone line and SWITCH ON, SWITCH OFF, or RESET up to 6 separate electrical appliances, PCs or Networks using a touch tone telephone and PIN Number. Our Line Sharing technology means you can use it AUTOMATICALLY, on any existing line.



PC RESET UNIT

This low cost accessory for use with our RTA, is designed for quick and easy user fitting, direct to the back of ANY PC. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and RESET your PC from any Touch Tone Telephone, at any time, from anywhere in the world!



POWER CONTROL UNIT

This RTA accessory provides you with a simple '2 minute plug in' solution for controlling remote electrical equipment. Once fitted, you will be able to call in and TURN ON, TURN OFF or RESET the power connected to any Electrical Device from any Touch Tone Telephone.



TELEPHONE LINE SIMULATORS for TESTING, TRAINING or DEMONSTRATION of all TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

RINGMASTER STD

This compact low cost device allows any two Telephone devices to ring and communicate with each other, without the need to connect to Two Telecom lines. Save 25c per call. Ideal for the Testing, Training & Demonstration of all telephone devices. Operation is Bi-Directional.



RINGMASTER PRO

Provides all of the facilities of our STD device and in addition generates Australian Dial Tone, Busy Tone and Disconnect Tones as appropriate. This unit also generates ALL EIGHT TELSTRA RING PATTERNS planned for use in Australia, including FaxStream Duet, EasyCall Multiple Number and Diverted Call rings.



RINGMASTER CLI

Provides all of the facilities of our PRO device and in addition generates TEN SEPARATE CALLING NUMBER DISPLAY (CND) test transmissions, in conjunction with any TELSTRA RING PATTERN. Alphanumeric and User Definable CND transmissions are also provided for.



Manufactured in Australia



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Australia's Telephone Line Sharing Company

For a Full Description of your Solution, Please Contact your State Office :

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (VIC) PH: (03) 9887 6200 FAX: (03) 9803 1708

Manufactured in Australia



• UNCONDITIONAL 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE • TWO YEAR WARRANTY • DEALER ENQUIRIES WELCOME •

Visit our comprehensive Web Site for information, brochures, prices, product sheets, installation diagrams, distributors or to place an order.

Web Site: www.natcomm.com.au

Email: natcomm@natcomm.com.au

27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205
(9 am — 5 pm) **9699 6222**
Fax: **9699 6499**



PC Update

PO Box 283
South Melbourne, VIC. 3205, Australia
office@melbpc.org.au
Tricia Swan
Margaret Greer
Kerry Williams

First Aid (Help) line
(10 am — 3 pm) **9696 9200**

Management Committee
committee@melbpc.org.au

President
Morris Tobias 9682 3122 BH
president@melbpc.org.au

Vice-President
(vacant)
vice-president@melbpc.org.au

Treasurer
Bill Ford treasurer@melbpc.org.au

Secretary
John Swale secretary@melbpc.org.au

Members
Dave Botherway daveb@melbpc.org.au
Carol Daniels cad@melbpc.org.au
Joe Henry joehenry@melbpc.org.au
Brian Horman bhor@melbpc.org.au
Thom Lyons toml Lyons@melbpc.org.au
Barry Martin barrymar@melbpc.org.au
Ash Nallawalla ash@melbpc.org.au
George Skarbek gskarbek@melbpc.org.au

Online Services
Melb PC BBS
(16 lines, up to 28.8 kbps) **9699 6611**

Internet Service
64 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day,
max 33.6 kbps **9686 4506**
60 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day,
max 56 kbps (V.90) **8626 5000**
120 lines, up to 120 mins total, per
day, max 56 kbps (K56flex) **9934 9400**

Intranet Service
26 lines, 30/10 mins, extra if lines free,
max 33.6 kbps **9690 5644**

Home Page
http://www.melbpc.org.au

PC Update

Editor
Ash Nallawalla
editor@melbpc.org.au

Production
Gary Taig
garyt@melbpc.org.au

Copyright notice
Copyright (c) 1999, Melbourne PC User Group Inc and individual authors. Except where otherwise stated, all material is the copyright of the author. Material in this magazine may be copied by nonprofit PC user groups without fee provided that there is no restriction published with the article, the copies are not used for commercial advantage, and the origins of the material and this permission to copy are acknowledged in the reprinted item.

Liability disclaimer
Material published in this magazine represents the opinions of the authors, and does not carry any endorsement by the committee or the editor. We do not test programs or tips that are published here, so use them at your own risk. Problems or follow-up queries should be sent to the original author. Melbourne PC User Group Inc. has no official connection with any public or commercial organisation and does not provide product recommendations. Names of commercial products mentioned in this magazine are registered names or trademarks of their owners.

Contributions
All authors must lodge a completed submission form (included in the style guide)

PC Update, November 1999

Contents

Features

Fax and Internet Convergence
Computer Fraud
Being Owned by a Small Firm
Sydney Opera House Shells

Peter Stanski 6
Lee Schwab 8
Bob Muirhead 10
Ken Holmes 26

Reviews

For the Bookshelf
PGP Security Suite
CorelDraw 9
Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
NoteTab Light

Bob Burt 13
Bernadette Haughton 14
Jim Colbert 16
Bernadette Haughton 18
Nozer Dadachanji 25

Group Business

PC (President's Comments)
Editorial
Internet Access Application Form
Special Interest Group Meetings
SIG Meeting Reports
Dial Help
Training Schedule, November & December
Random Access
Acknowledgments
Advertisers Index

Morris Tobias 4
Ash Nallawalla 5
..... 11
..... 21
..... 22
..... 28
..... 29
John Swale 31
..... 31
..... 31

that confirms that the article is previously unpublished (if previously published, the author must have the right to authorise republishing), and original, save for any content which is properly credited, and that Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated may publish the article on one or more occasions on paper, the Internet or otherwise, edit the article and/or permit republication by non-profit organisations. These are PC Update's standard terms of publication.

Before starting a review or article, write to the editor, in case someone else has beaten you to it. Then download, read and follow the style guide STYLAUTH.ZIP from area PCU.351 of the BBS. Note, anonymous submissions are not accepted. Authors must present a balanced view of the subject matter, based on a reasonable period of use — if the article is overly critical they should submit a copy to the distributor or manufacturer for comment. Copies of such correspondence should accompany the submission.

Submitting articles and reports

Upload articles, reports and reviews to the BBS, as plain, unformatted (ASCII) text files or plain unformatted (ASCII) text files bundled in a ZIP file with accompanying graphics. Do not use long file names or upload self-extracting EXE

files. Make sure you are in the PCUP file area, before you upload the file. Leave a message to All (not 'Private') in the PC Update Discussion area.

Submissions that conform to the above formatting requirements can also be sent by post, on a virus-free diskette which will not be returned, to the Group's PO Box or e-mailed, with attachments of less than 1 MB, to pcupdate@melbpc.org.au.

Editing:

All articles are edited for style, spelling, grammar and length. Articles that may not be edited or that do not meet our standards, will be rejected.

Graphics:

Supply graphics or screen shots, wherever possible, as colour, or black and white images, saved in one of the formats: TIF, BMP, PCX, WMF or EPS. EPS files should not contain embedded fonts; convert everything to curves when saving.

Rejections:

Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Articles with long file names, self-extracting files or virus infections are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.



PC (President's Comments)

*Morris Tobias,
President*

Gary Taig — you have shown your true colours! The October *PC Update*, which you put together at unbelievably short notice is amazing. You obviously worked 24 hours a day to make the deadline, let alone creating the style and layout for these temporary editions. On behalf of the Members of Melbourne PC User Group, I salute you. Thanks.

There is an old expression that states "*Your Blood is Worth Bottling*". This is still true, except that now it is put into plastic bags.

Every Summer, between 1 December and the last day of February, the Red Cross Blood Bank hosts **The Summer Challenge** to community groups to see which group can give the largest number of blood donations.

This is an excellent campaign because it achieves several objectives:

- It raises the awareness of a need for blood supplies in emergency and surgical wards in our hospitals.
- It provides a really personal way to show the community that you care.
- It provides Melb PC members with a way to publicly show our community mindedness as a group.
- It probably keeps many people alive who might otherwise die without these important contributions.

Giving blood is a fairly painless exercise. In order to qualify as a blood donor, you need to be under 71 years of age, and in good health. There are a few questions asked of you each time you give a donation to ensure that you have maintained your health. Simply phone the Blood Bank on **13-14-95** to make an appointment.

After you have given your donation, you are invited to go to the refreshment area for something to eat and drink, and at this time you can register your donation on behalf of Melbourne PC User Group.

Of the 25 or more community groups that participate, we have a reasonably large membership and could be in with a big chance to win the challenge.

With your help, and with the help of your family and friends, we could move closer to the top and give benefit to the community and Melb PC in general.

So if you are healthy and want to help, call **13-14-95** and make your appointment for a Blood Donation before 29 February 2000

For further information, please contact Morris Tobias on 03 9682 2577 during business hours.

Volunteer of the Month

The honours for the November volunteer of the month goes to **Graham Ackland**. Graham began his career as an electrical engineer with the now defunct SEC in 1957 and retired in 1990. His interest in computers began in 1957 when he was taught Fortran programming for an IBM mainframe computer (punched paper tape in those days). In the 1980s he began to use PCs and purchased a Tandy Color Computer (32 KB RAM) and taught himself some assembler language.

Upon retirement, Graham bought a real PC and joined Melbourne PC User Group. He quickly became a regular and invaluable helper in the office.

When Melb PC's First Aid service started — where calls are diverted directly to members' homes between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm, Graham volunteered and was rostered on one day a week — something he is still doing all these years later.

First Aid can be a challenging job, anything from computers that won't start up to data recovery, and of course, many questions relating to Internet access. While challenging, Graham concedes that he has learnt a great deal from figuring out other people's problems.

Outside Melb PC, Graham is an active member of Rotary and Probus, and regularly babysits his two grandchildren.

Morris

PRINTER SALES REPAIRS and SPARE PARTS

Laurie Rooney

Telephone: (03) 9887 4877

Facsimile: (03) 9800 1777

E-mail: intoki@minerva.com.au

Factory 2

9 Sherwood Ct.

WANTIRNA 3152

INTRONICS (AUST) Pty Ltd
ACN 070 835 488

OKI-Microline SPECIALISTS

Refurbished Printhead Service

Computer — Printer Cables & Accessories

AUTHORISED **OKI** SERVICE CENTRE

Editorial



Ash Nallawalla

Recently I was on vacation in the United States with my family and met up with an old friend who is a user group officer. He said that he will never use a modem again to surf the Web. He now has an ADSL connection to the Internet for just US\$40 per month. It didn't even need new wiring as it comes through his existing phone line. See http://www.bell-atl.com/adsl/more_info/aq.html for some information about ADSL. I know others who are paying a similar amount to their phone companies for fast Internet access. While this is great for Web surfers, I suspect it does not bode well for small ISPs. This is a technology to watch.

30 September

When Mr B received the September issue of *PC Update* (that black-and-white effort), he wrote to the Secretary and asked not to be sent any more junk mail.

The reason why that issue was so partisan is that Ziff Davis was going to produce that issue and, for reasons that became apparent later, we realised that we had to produce it ourselves if we were to get it to you in time. We simply

could not wait for ZD to do it. For the benefit of people like Mr B, most of us who run this user group do so on an honorary basis, namely, for no money and in our "spare time". I can drive Corel Ventura and Adobe PageMaker, but I simply did not have the luxury of time for that issue.

Trust me; we do not deliberately set out to create junk mail. As that issue contained only Group news, I imagine that Mr B is one of those members who don't care for the "users helping users" foundation of this group.

Thanks, Gary Taig!

As you would have noted in the October Guest Editorial, my fellow Life Member, Gary Taig has come to the rescue while the tender subcommittee evaluates the proposals from potential magazine producers. Gary has generously volunteered to produce the magazines until

the last edition of this year. While some postured and criticised the September issue in the newsgroups and in e-mail, Gary delivered the bacon. Thank you, Gary!

Quite appropriately, several readers have commented favourably on the the October issue produced by Gary.

Writers and Subeditors Needed

If you wish to write for *PC Update*, please contact me at editor@melbpc.org.au and describe your knowledge of the subject matter and the proposed topic. Yes, reviewers do get to keep review software (hardware is usually returned). Subeditors are also needed. □

**PETER MCGUIGAN'S
NOTEBOOKS GALORE**

COMPAQ
**HEWLETT
PACKARD**
TOSHIBA
IBM
NEC
ACER
MITAC

**LARGE RANGE
UNBEATABLE PRICES**

30 Notebooks on display – 18 years trading integrity
Mail order a speciality – Delivered nation-wide
90 day Warranty and 30 day's money back Guarantee
on used Notebooks – Trade-ins accepted
Small, portable, Notebook Ink Jet Printers
Modems, Network Cards, SCSI, GSM, Hard Disks
Memory for Notebooks always available
(even for old models) and Carry Cases
External CD-ROM Drives

NEW
USED
EX DEMO
SUPERSEDED
BUY
HIRE

15 Brighton Rd.
St Kilda VIC
(opp. Town Hall)
Ph: (03) 9537 2233
Fax: (03) 9537 2266
lester@eisa.net.au

**Upgrade
and Save**

**Give your old PC a
new lease on life !!**

**Upgrading your PC is a cost
effective way of extending
its life. If you find it slow,
its running out of disk
space, or you need better
multi-media performance -
We are the people to talk
to ! We have been upgrad-
ing PC's since 1991.**

We also do....

- Monitor repairs
- Printer Repairs
- PC Repairs
- Computer networks for small business
- Year 2000 Consulting

**Our upgrades are (about)
1/3 the cost of a new
computer, fully installed.
(Motherboard, processor,
cooling fan, 64Mb RAM,
4Mb AGP Video card). Bring
in your PC for a free quote.**

Bayside PC
96 Nepean Highway
Mentone. 3194.
Tel. (03) 9585 1645
Fax. (03) 9585 1583

**For more info about us:
www.baypc.com.au/pcu**

Fax and Internet Convergence

by Peter Stanski

The use of the fax machine and its ubiquitous status has proven to be an indispensable tool. Within the office and the home, the humble fax machine is the driving force in remote document delivery. This killer 80s technology turned the phone into more than just a way of communicating voice, but also a way to deliver documents. In the era that brought us the false belief of the paperless office, the fax was the promise of office automation. Now in the 90s, the Internet globalisation phase is in full swing. In this arena the fax machine is not as key to office operations, but has taken a back seat and contends with electronic mail.

In this article we show you how these two technologies are competing within the office and the home. We present their coexistence on a day-to-day basis and show you how existing systems are merging the two technologies.

Some Background

Most people are familiar with the operation of a fax machine. In reality it is just a fancy black and white scanner; a printer with a built-in modem and a phone, rolled into a single unit. Some have other handy features such as answering machine or voice mail, calling number display, fax on demand (incoming callers can request documents to be faxed to them), group faxing facilities (fax to a list of numbers, e.g. regular clients) and the like. This is not very impressive to most people who use these every day, especially those in the business of computing and information technology (IT).

The Present

Today's small office/home office (SOHO) businesses can often get by without a fax machine and rely heavily on their desktop PCs. Especially since a PC with a fax modem can easily emulate the features of a fax machine, there is little need to own one. Several years ago several software vendors introduced fax server software, which enables users to share one modem to send and receive faxes just as simply as email. (See Figure 2.)

Instead of an e-mail address such as *me@home.net.au*, a user would enter a *username@phone number* in the To: field. The fax server would process the e-mail, dial the phone number and send the e-mail as a fax. This simple idea effectively enabled any office staff to share the fax machine without the need to print a document before faxing it out. Perhaps the greatest benefit here was that nobody had to walk up to the fax machine any more. Everything the user required was driven from a standard e-mail client, which years ago was a very impressive feature.

At the receiving end, the traditional fax machine would simply print the message like it would any other fax. Alternatively, if the receiving side was a PC fax server, the system would process the incoming faxes and direct them to their respective recipient's e-mail/fax account. All other general faxes would go to a standard account accessible by all staff.

This process enabled faxes to be treated like e-mail, which made life easier for the user, but often proved costly for the organisation. Erroneously addressed international faxes often cost the firm

huge amounts of dollars in lost revenue. This was mainly owing to the simplicity and availability of access to an expensive resource. Here, users dealing with faxing applied similar behaviour that they were accustomed to in sending e-mails. Even local faxing often drove the phone bills to astronomical figures. But, beyond ease of use, there were more benefits of going digital — the benefit of auditing everything and everyone.

With the centralised fax server, everyone's activities could be tracked, so that personal faxes to Honduras or Kathmandu could quickly be linked to your account. Furthermore, backing up the server often meant backing up all the sent and received faxes. In some fax server systems, stored faxes could be searched for keywords, sorted according to a criterion, converted back to plain text or even converted into a Word document for reediting. This was something never before possible with fax technologies, and this is how much of the computer telephony integration (CTI) revolution started. The idea of linking the telephone, some existing hardware such as a fax, and the desktop computer into one unified system brought much imagination into the minds of numerous system solution providers. (See Figure 3)

CTI Boom

A lot has happened since the term CTI was coined. CTI is a vast topic that does not only integrate fax solutions but many computer telephony integration permutations. Upon reading numerous trade publications, one quickly realises that CTI is a rapidly growing industry with numerous innovative solutions.

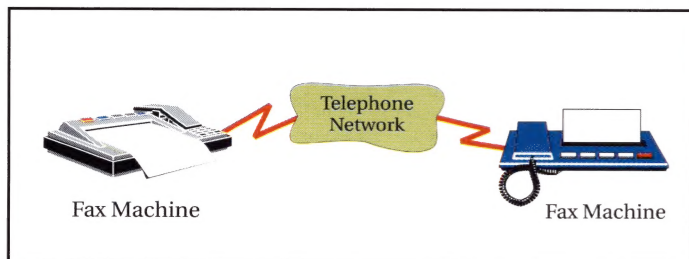


Figure 1. Traditional Fax-to-Fax communication

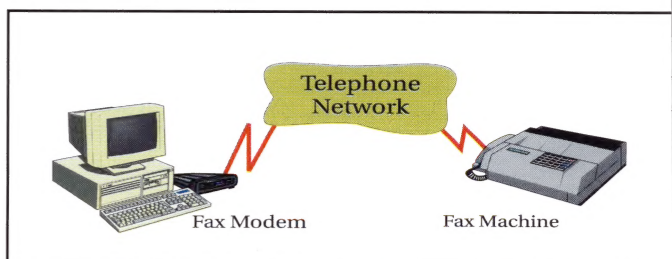


Figure 2. The PC Fax Modem model
PC Update, November 1999

User-Driven Technology

Today we still have the humble fax machine and the desktop PC with a fax modem sitting side by side in many SOHOs or larger organisations. This is reflective of the legacy of existing systems and perhaps their relatively inexpensive cost. CTI systems are much more expensive and often unaffordable, or perhaps too cryptic and complex for the average user to configure. Many of today's high speed modems not only have the basic fax option, but even boast voice mail, fax on demand, operating without the PC being powered up and the like. This often surpasses the capabilities of most cheap fax machines, but people still keep on using them.

What about the ability to easily carry a piece of paper from A to B, or the ability to scribble on the faxed paper document? This simple and more human friendly usability factor is unsurpassed by any of the existing software tools that currently exist. And for those who firmly believe in being digital and keeping everything electronic, they find too often that they do a lot of printing just because they need to hold something at a meeting or even sign a document as being read.

Aesthetics

So what is the big benefit of these technologies if we still revert to something printed on paper in the end? Many of CTI vendors have long been aware of these and other issues. The bottom line is that people need to hold and handle things with their hands and not everything can be an icon on a desktop or a file on your hard drive. Therefore, much of the work in the area of integrating fax and electronic systems has paid close attention to this while new and evolving integrated fax solutions are developed.

Innovative Technologies

One interesting variation of the above fax system solution has been to leverage the power of the Internet. In the brave new world of being online around the clock, many companies have begun to discover the benefits of sending faxes over their network connections between branch offices, or across the world using the Net. These companies

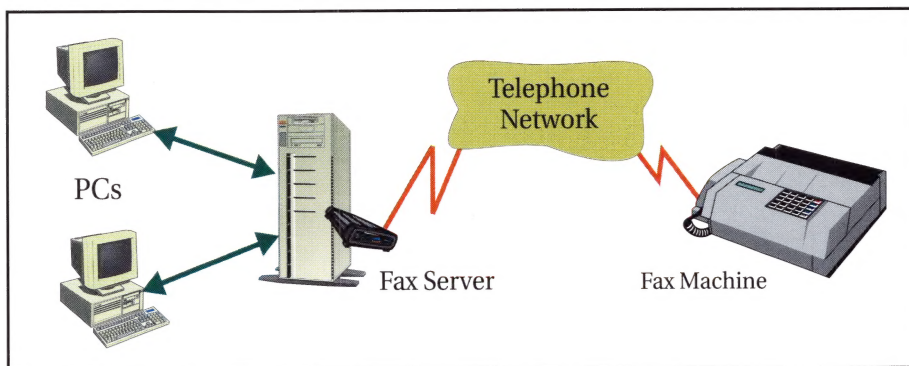


Figure 3. Centralised Fax Server Solutions

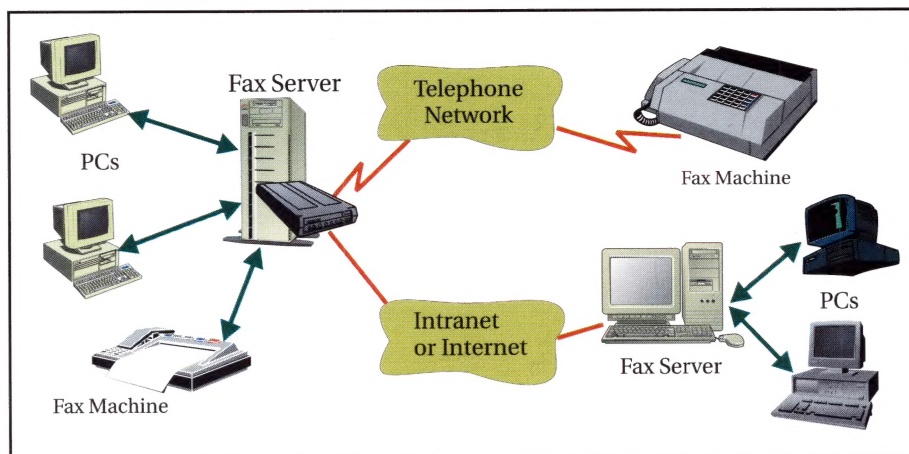


Figure 4. Enterprise Integration System Solution

have their fax server software running within their organisations, but their servers are not only attached to a fax modem, but also to networks.

The network attachment may be through the network card or another modem connected directly to an Internet Service Provider (ISP). These systems send and receive local faxes through the fax modem, while long-distance faxing is done through the network connection. They may connect to a remote fax server at a given domain such as "my.office.com.au", where faxes are received much like traditional e-mail. These solutions potentially equate to large savings on long-distance international charges that were previously unavoidable.

Old Look, New Feel

Alternatively, these fax gateways as they are commonly called may also have traditional fax machines attached to them. Should anyone still need to do things the conventional way with paper, they may do so. The only difference in this case is that the fax machines always call the local fax gateway instead of the long-distance number. This is a little more complicated, as faxes do not directly interface with the fax server.

Therefore, some clever tricks are often performed with the PABX (local company switch/exchange) to achieve this. Once received, the gateway converts the fax into an electronic format, which traverses the digital computer network. It is then received by the remote fax server and forwarded to the local fax machine or PC clients.

Flexibility

This doesn't sound so complicated when you have a look at it. To the users, nothing has changed, they still punch in numbers as before, but the system and network is sufficiently smart to figure out the best cost routing for fax delivery. Enormous cost savings are possible for organisations that have virtual private networks (VPNs) or trading partners who already leverage the Internet for their e-mail and Web access.

The beauty of these gateways is that they do not necessarily require the same system to be at the other end. For Internet/intranet-based solutions translations to e-mail are also possible so that organisations that do not have these facilities can still receive faxes as e-mails, and vice versa.

Long Term Benefits

These systems are an everyday reality for thousands of large organisations that can afford the infrastructure of sometimes very expensive systems. However, the long-term costs often outweigh the initial investment. Some organisations add more things such as video conferencing, streaming video, pushing of event notifications to individual user desktops, and even integrating the phone within the desktop machines. Some emerging solutions even incorporate Web services, which enable users to request information to be e-mailed, or faxed to

them. These ideas and their permutations with emerging technologies are converging the networks, services and software in a most unusual manner. We have not yet fully converted a great number of telephony and computing activities, but these are continually ongoing. The next few years will bring a wealth of change, benefits and also significant confusion for many.

The power of going digital and the availability of broadband data channels opens many exciting opportunities for many of us. Not only for those of us who use this technology but especially those who are yet to experience it. The

one thing that we can be certain of is that the future will be utterly fantastic.

About the Author

*Peter Stanski
peter.stanski@csse.monash.edu.au is just about to finish his PhD at Monash University. In his spare time he thinks up and writes articles for PC Update to share some of his unused knowledge and experience. In the past he has worked as a game programmer, consultant, contractor and now as a full-time researcher who is about to return to industry.* □

Computer Fraud

By Lee Schwab

I took advantage of the opportunity to attend the Southwest Regional User Group meeting in San Diego on July 9-11, 1999. One of the best presentations I attended was by Terry Rankhorn, Special Agent, Cybercrimes Unit, FBI San Diego. His presentation was fascinating and scary. Below is some of the information he presented.

The FBI has developed a hacker profile based on their experience. The following description of a hacker lists the most common attributes first. The hacker is usually a student who uses the Internet every day, especially IRC. If the hacker has a job, it usually involves computers. He is usually quite

knowledgeable of Unix. As a matter of fact, you will usually find several books on Unix in a hacker's room. The typical hacker is an adolescent, white male.

Many things motivate the hacker. His curiosity pushes him to learn how to get around the Internet, firewalls, and whatever else he happens to encounter. Hackers gain prestige and bragging rights when they are able to break through a firewall or other obstacle. There is even a web site where they can post their accomplishments and gain a following. Some hackers are motivated by revenge for some perceived injustice, which they feel they have experienced. They may get the IP address of the person causing the injustice and knock them off the Internet every time they

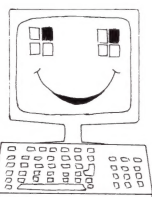
get on. Because of their age, hackers are usually not motivated by politics or profit.

One of the most common targets of hackers is Internet Service Providers (ISP) because they are easy to hack and have numerous user accounts. A hacker will break into an ISP and get one or more accounts and passwords. He may sell or trade the account information to other hackers. Unless the subscriber of the account reports a problem with the account, the hacker usually does not get caught. Most ISPs assign a different IP address every time you sign on which allows anonymity for the hacker.

Therefore, it is unlikely the Internet will ever be truly secure.

PC SUPPORT and TUITION SERVICES

- Personalised Computer tuition, to suit your needs
- Computer Problems Solved
- Ages 9 to 99 catered for
- Small Office Networking Solutions



For PCs using:
DOS Windows 3.x Windows 95
**Discounts for Melb PC members*

Peter Selig
Phone (03) 9527-8805 Mob 0419-335-221
E-mail pfselig@melbpc.org.au

Why does a newspaper look like a newspaper?

How many products can be planned, designed, manufactured and distributed within a month — or even a week, or a day? Newspapers have evolved into a lowcost method of distributing information, whether that is editorial, or advertisements, or a mixture. Many agencies, designers and bureaus, as well as those who want them, shy away from newspaper production because they are so different. And, if they do go ahead, they often turn out to be expensive and, well, they may be a newspaper shape, but they don't look like a newspaper. We can help. We don't print them, but we can help you create them. See our web page:

www.worsleypress.com

Worsley Press, 11 Lintel Court, Hastings 3915
Phone/fax (03) 5979 1112 email **info@worsleypress.com**

Other popular targets for hackers are Universities because many have powerful number crunching computers like the Cray. This number crunching capability helps the hacker more quickly find the key that they are looking for. The university setting provides a perfect opportunity for the hacker. Many times (especially in smaller schools) the security is lax and there are numerous user accounts.

Government and military sites are also popular targets among hackers because of the challenge, prestige, and publicity. If a hacker breaks into one of these sites, he gets big bragging rights and will probably post his accomplishment at attrition.org. Recently, it was reported that a hacker broke into the Pentagon. Terry said that what actually happened was that security was alerted that someone was trying to break through the firewall. When the hacker tried a different approach, security decided to take the system down. No breach of security was made.

If a person is denied service or experiences a perceived injustice, he may want to hack for revenge. This may require a low skill level and use of pre-made downloaded tools. This type of hack could be called "Internet Road Rage". With wiretapping (sniffer) type hacks, a hacker uses a password sniffer to collect passwords and personal information. There are internal intrusions where the biggest threat is from within, whereas, in classic external intrusions a remote intruder breaks into the computer.

All of the frauds that work through the mail work just as well, or perhaps even better, when using a computer. This is partly because of the feeling of anonymity on the part of the person committing the fraud and partly because people are sometimes embarrassed to admit that they were ripped off (especially at X-rated sites). Terry told a story about a man who advertised a projector for sale at one of the Internet auctions. Several people bid on the projector and the auction site gave the seller the contact information for the top bidders. The seller then contacted each of the prospective buyers and told them that the person above them had dropped out of the

bidding and that they had won the bid. The seller received checks from several people but none of the buyers received a projector. Was there ever a projector for sale? Who knows? The good news is that the seller was caught.

Pyramid schemes are a popular type of fraud on the Internet. You put your name at the bottom of a list and send each person on the list above you \$5. There is almost no chance that you will recover your money. Plus, you may have provided your email information to a hacker. The same threat holds true for advance fee schemes. For example, you send \$19.95 to have your credit history repaired. You do not need to pay a fee to repair your credit and you may have given a hacker access to your email.

Hackers can be prosecuted for mail fraud (Title 18, Section 1341) or wire fraud (Title 18, Section 1343). Wherever hackers or anyone else goes on the Internet, they leave a trail that can be followed by a savvy investigator. However, the investigator has to be alerted that there is a crime before he/she can investigate.

If you use a cable modem or are connected to the Internet all the time, be aware of who is accessing your computer. Terry gave an example of a friend who has networked two computers in his home and who uses a file server. Terry was easily able to look at the files on his friend's computer and could have caused major damage. Instead, he sent a message that appeared on his friend's monitor. What a scary wake up call.

This only scratches the surface of what Terry covered during his presentation. The bottom line is — use good commonsense when using the Internet. If you feel you are at risk, you can download a shareware firewall from nukenabber.com. Happy surfing!

Reprinted with permission from the August 1999 issue of the dVINE Blues, Napa Valley PC Users Group.

This article is brought to you courtesy of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an organisation to which this user group belongs. Lee Schwab has been an active member of the Napa Valley PC Users Group for many years and was an officer for ten years. She served as Editor of the dVINE Blues newsletter (7.5 years), President, Vice President, Publicity, Public Relations, Evaluations Coordinator, and Program Chair. PC's play an integral part of Lee's busy life outside the NVPCUG. She is the President and Chairwoman of the Board for the CyberMill, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organisation where people (especially at-risk youth) learn to use technology. She uses her PC to evaluate and track her extended family's investments and make stock trades. Lee feels very fortunate to work in areas that she likes (computing, investing, and volunteering) and will always be challenged and in learning mode. □

Members' Free Ads

Windows NT 3.5 Workstation on CD; upgrade
Windows NT 4.0 Workstation on CD;
ServicePack 3 on CD;
Works for Windows 95 on CD;
Asymetrix Multimedia ToolBook on CD
\$250.00 for the lot

Mini Tower system with Celeron 333 MHz,
850 MB HDD, Floppy drive, 6x CD-ROM, 32 MB
SDRAM, AGP on board with drivers CD,
Keyboard but no monitor; with MS Windows for
Workgroups 3.11 on CD,
Windows 95 upgrade on CD and Microsoft Word
to version 6.0a on diskettes.
\$380.00 the lot or sep by negotiation.

Creative PhoneBlaster 28.8 FSP internal
modem with speaker phone capability, sound
and CD-ROM connection all in one
\$120.00
Peter Fischer, (03) 9437 1090 or
fischerp@melbpc.org.au

Windows 95 Interactive Training CD-ROM.
Computer Television.
\$40.00 Pat (03) 9329 8324

Yamaha Portatone PSR-215 Electronic Music
Keyboard In perfect as-new condition
\$400
Carole Speirs
Phone: (03) 9700-3402

Being Owned by a Small Farm

Bob Muirhead

When I moved out of the city to my 23 ha farm near Kilmore, I had visions of the easy life as a rural squire, sipping drinks on the verandah at sunset, admiring the grazing cattle and writing my tales of el Rancho Muirhead. Alas! That fantasy was shortlived as I started to think about my broader responsibilities as a steward of the land.

It is no longer acceptable to exploit the land by focusing only on its income producing capacity. Nor should we regard a small "hobby" farm as simply an escape from city life, neglecting our duty to preserve its ecology and its past. We should balance lifestyle and income producing activities with ecological and cultural responsibilities.

Cattle breeding generates all my farm income, so it gets a lot of attention. Each cow has a numbered ear tag and details of genetics, calving, illnesses, ages etc are recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.

Calves are also tagged. They are weighed just before sale as vealers and I use a spreadsheet to calculate the daily weight gain. That allows me to identify unsatisfactory cows for culling from the herd.

Efficient cattle management involves rotating stock from paddock to paddock to suit pasture growth. When growth is most rapid (spring) I cut and weigh a few square metre samples from each

paddock before stock are allowed to graze there. Using the dry pasture weight I can calculate the total pasture mass in each paddock to optimise grazing time.

Knowing the pasture mass also assists in deciding whether to cut hay or not. Farms generally have surplus feed in spring and a deficit in late summer and in winter, so some farmers cut hay for later use. On my farm, it is rarely economic to cut hay when all the costs are factored in.

Most Australian soils are acidic and deficient in phosphorous, so lime and fertiliser are required for optimum pasture quality. I record fertiliser use and any changes in pasture quality in my spreadsheet.

It is important to monitor if any grass or clover species are declining as stocking rates are increased because that can have important effects on pasture sustainability. I sample the soil every couple of years and spread super-phosphate and lime accordingly.

But farming is not just about profits. That emphasis has often led to land damage and loss of species diversity. As stewards of the land and water with its fauna and flora we have a duty to correct past mistakes and to be vigilant of our own.

I have planted 1200 trees in carefully chosen areas. My spreadsheet shows tree planting by number, species and location, and their history of growth, pest damage etc. That information will be a valuable guide for future plantings.

I also record wildlife observations to gauge the impact of grazing and habitat upgrades. After only a few years here I have already seen an increase in bird diversity.

I have a scanned air photo of my farm and a mapping program (Map Maker) that allows me to make overlays showing all the improvements done and also allows calculations of areas and distances to plan future projects.

Using Map Maker I can also calculate

catchment areas and work out rainfall runoff. The amount of water available allows me to evaluate additional farm activities, such as growing fruit or nut trees.

Photographic records are important to assess the progress of improvements and as an historical record before changes are made. So far I have a couple of hundred pictures. I am considering a digital camera for its flexibility. Digital images can be readily re-sized and cropped to focus on essential features. Unwanted images can be discarded at zero cost.

Farmers are also part of the cultural continuity of the land and have a responsibility not only to preserve the past but also to provide historical connections for those who come after us. This is quite a challenge where landholdings are losing generational continuity.

Sadly, my farm has lost most links with its past. Every so often as I dig around I find traces of the lives of previous occupants — broken china and small items that have been lost in former times. Documentary and photographic records of any personal nature are almost certainly lost forever. But I can reconstruct some history using old air photos and shire records.

Reconstructing aboriginal activity in any detail may be impossible. I plan to use the Internet to network with aboriginal groups to find out how they lived and hunted here.

A longer term project is to document my research and my own observations to pass onto the next owner. That will be my cultural legacy to the future.

Now, when I sit on the verandah, I see the seasons come and go and the heavens mark our passage round the sun. The soil, the water and all their living things also change in tune with this cosmic cycle. All forms of life have a higher value when you see them every day, and try to understand how and why they live and die. Then you learn to tread more gently upon the earth. □



Reprint by permission only. All rights reserved by Don Gorse.
Request images from Don at degonse@juno.com.

Internet Access Application Form

Instructions

Please **read** the entire form. It may be photocopied.

Complete **every** field else it might be returned to you. Each field has a purpose, which includes updating our database.

Enclose a cheque or authorise a charge against your credit card for the requisite amount. Send the form with payment to

Melbourne PC User Group
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Description of Service

General. The Melbourne PC User Group Inc A0003293V (Melb PC) Internet Service network (the Network) is a private telecommunications network owned and operated by Melb PC for its members. It is administered by the Internet Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) as a subscriber-funded service.

Function of the Melb PC Network. The primary function of the Network is to support the free transfer of information to and from Melb PC members, subject to the terms of our Acceptable Use Policy.

Standard Service. PPP accounts.

Features:

- Electronic Mail.
- We also provide access to other services that are found on the Internet but they are not under our control.

Charges. Annual fee \$140, subject to change from time to time.

Limits and Quotas. Up to 120 minutes access per day (non-cumulative). A bank of modems is made available with a time limit of 30 minutes for the benefit of users who need to check their mail and get off quickly. The Mail quota is 4 MB. Excess mail may be deleted.

Access Software. You will need to acquire and configure suitable software from our Shareware library or other resources.

Accounts. Accounts are issued only to individuals, not company names. Melb PC may reject an application without stating a reason.

Support. Volunteers offer their help in local newsgroups, via our free Bulletin Board Service, or by telephone.

Training. Melb PC offers training courses.

Duration. The subscription to the Network is for one year from the date of acceptance. It automatically terminates upon expiry of membership of Melb PC.

Acknowledgment. Successful applicants will include individuals whose forms are correctly filled out and whose funds have been transferred to our bank account.

Net Etiquette. Melb PC endorses adherence to ("net etiquette" or "netiquette") as deemed by the subcommittee from time to time.

Internet Access Agreement

Definitions

"Melb PC" means The Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated A0003293V or its assignee;

"the subscriber" means the Melb PC member making this application;

"family subscriber" refers to an existing Melb PC Family Member, or a member of the family residing at the same address who applies for Melb PC Family Membership at this same time, paying the additional \$10 Melb PC membership in addition to the Internet subscription;

"Internet access" means access to the World Wide Web, Internet e-mail and any additional Internet facilities Melb PC may offer to its members from time to time, but unless Melb PC agrees otherwise does not include supply or maintenance of the subscriber's equipment, software or telephone line, or technical support;

"subscription period" means the period in advance for which the subscriber has paid in full, being one of the periods of subscription offered by Melb PC from time to time;

1. The subscriber asks Melb PC to provide Internet access and Melb PC agrees to do so.
2. This agreement starts when an authorised officer of Melb PC has executed it and Melb PC has received cleared payment for the subscription period.
3. Subject to the early termination clauses of this agreement and to clause 4, this agreement continues until the end of the subscription period.
4. If Melb PC and the subscriber renew this agreement for a further subscription period, this agreement applies to the renewed subscription period unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
5. The subscriber acknowledges that:
 - a. Continuity and speed of the Internet access depends on a wide range of factors, many of which are beyond the control of Melb PC;
 - b. Melb PC has no control over the accuracy or appropriateness of any information on the Internet;
 - c. Melb PC is not responsible for any material available on the Internet;
 - d. The subscriber's Internet access may be interrupted by equipment failure, the need for routine maintenance, peak demand and so on;
 - e. Melb PC cannot guarantee that the subscriber will be able to secure access at any given time, or that fluctuations in demand by other subscribers will not prevent the subscriber from using the full amount of the maximum daily time allowance on any given day.
6. Subject to matters of the kind referred to in the previous clause and to the subscriber's access limits, Melb PC will use its best endeavours to keep Internet access available continuously and to allow the subscriber to have access for the current daily time allowance from time to time.
7. The subscriber indemnifies Melb PC against any liability, claim, action, suit, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of or in any way connected with this agreement or Internet access, including any negligence by Melb PC, its servants or agents.
8. The subscriber will pay fees according to Melb PC's standard pricing list from time to time, and a copy of the list certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the prices applicable at any time.
9. Melb PC may make rules for the use by the subscriber of Internet access, including rules as to online time limits, transmission volume limits, excess usage fees, terms of payment and any other matter at all that Melb PC considers desirable, provided that there shall be no reduction in the access time of the subscriber during any period for which the subscriber has paid in advance unless the service provided by Melb PC has been or is to be enhanced so as to make up for any lost value. Melb PC may alter the rules on not less than fourteen days notice to the subscriber. A copy of the rules certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the rules applicable at any time. The rules from time to time will apply as if they were set out in full as terms of this agreement.
10. The subscriber must not deliberately or recklessly do anything that damages Melb PC's equipment, software, setup or services.
11. The subscriber must not use Internet access to annoy, harass or harm other Internet users.
12. The subscriber must not use Internet access for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful manner.
13. The subscriber will keep safe and confidential any access numbers, codes or passwords allotted to them by Melb PC and notify Melb PC without delay of any disclosure of those things.
14. Melb PC may terminate the subscriber's Internet access immediately if the subscriber breaches this agreement or the rules, or fails to promptly pay any money owed to Melb PC, or ceases to be a member of Melb PC.
15. Subject to the previous clause, either party may terminate this agreement by 14 days' notice to the other save that Melb PC must not terminate this agreement while the subscriber has credit for advance payment of fees without refunding a pro rata part of those fees or making alternative Internet access arrangements for the subscriber, and termination by the subscriber does not affect any debt owed to Melb PC at the time of termination.
16. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks that is unauthorised, unlawful, obscene, dangerous, excessive in volume, uncollected for an excessive period, or in an unauthorised place.

17. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks without giving any reason for doing so.
18. Melb PC may make and keep any record it requires for the purpose of this agreement or the rules or for the operation of its services.
19. The Description of Service, Internet Access Agreement, and the services as described on this application form constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and neither of them relies on any term, condition, warranty, collateral contract, representation or promise not set out in those parts of this application forms.
20. Any notice given about any matter concerning this agreement may be given by fax, e-mail or post at the last fax number, e-mail or postal address notified to the sender and is deemed to have been received at the time when it would have arrived in the ordinary course of the relevant type of transmission.
21. The subscriber must not transfer, sell or share Internet access rights, or allow the account to be used by any other person, other than those Melb PC Family Members who are listed on this application.
22. The user's last name must be displayed in all mail and news messages. The user's first name or initials may be displayed as desired.
23. Commercial traffic, in the form of private messages and advertisements in newsgroups designated for that purpose, is permitted within the bounds of net etiquette.
24. The *Organization*: field in private electronic mail or public newsgroup article headers must always be *Melbourne PC User Group, Australia*, the name of the service provider. Any other organisation or business name is permitted only in the four-line (maximum) "signature" text that is optionally inserted at the end of the message or article.
25. Connection of any networking system or device that permits multiple users to share one account simultaneously is not permitted.
26. The *From*: field used in mail and news messages must be the Melb PC assigned user name, e.g. *jjones@melbpc.org.au* not the address where a reply is sought, e.g. *jjones@pobox.com.au*. Such an arrangement should be managed by use of the *Reply-To*: field.
27. Melb PC may assign its rights and obligations under this agreement to an Internet access provider that is of equal standard to Melb PC, and after notice of assignment is given to the subscriber, this agreement shall have operation as if it had been entered into between the assignee and the subscriber and Melb PC's rights (except for its right to recover any money owed to it immediately before the assignment) and obligations under this agreement shall be at an end.
28. The parties submit to the law of Victoria, Australia in relation to any the interpretation of this agreement, or any dispute arising out of it.

Service Required and Payment

Subscription	\$ 140.00
Melb PC Internet Kit software	
Windows 3.x version @ \$10.00	\$.....
Melb PC Win 95/98/NT setup @ \$5.00	\$.....
Total	\$.....

Tick ☒

☐ Cheque for above total is enclosed.

or

☐ Debit my card with \$.....

☐ Bankcard / ☐ MasterCard / ☐ Visa

Expires:/.....

Number:

Name on Card

Signature:

Applicant Details

First Name:

Last Name:

Membership Number:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Telephone

Day (.....)

Evening (.....)

Job Title:

Employer:

Tick ☒

My age is: ☐ 18 or above, ☐ Below 18

I hereby apply for the Internet Service described on this and the previous page

Signature:

Additional Family Members who will share the one account/user name:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Name:

Signature:

Applicant(s) to Complete (CAPITALS, please)

Parent/Guardian to Complete

(If any of the applicants is below the age of 18)
I am the parent/guardian of the applicant. I am aware of the nature of information available through the Internet and support this application.

Name

Telephone

(day) (.....)

Signature:

User Name

List below the user ("login") names you would like, in order of preference, up to eight lowercase characters and/or numerals. Write very clearly, to avoid our confusing certain letters. User names are expressed in lowercase letters and numbers and must represent your real name in some recognisable way, e.g. John J. Jones might request user names such as john, johnj, jjones, etc. Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated. Preferred full name (e.g. *John J Jones* or *Jones Family*), to be recorded on the system.

Previous name (if to be changed):

.....

Choice 1

Choice 2

Choice 3

Choice 4

Choice 5

Office Use Only

☒ Tick as applicable

☐ Form and fee correct

☐ Parent of under age applicant contacted (date)/...../199

☐ Membership database checked and updated

☐ Incomplete form returned to sender (date)/...../199

☐ Acknowledgment returned to sender (date)/...../199

Initials of office staff

O'Reilly & Associates have developed an area of expertise for themselves by publishing books on open source software (a stylised name for free software), the Internet, programming, Windows NT and UNIX. Not the least amongst their offerings is a formidable array of books on Java, currently comprising at least 18 titles. Of these, five have been written by the author of Java I/O, **Elliotte Rusty Harold**.

While readers who have at least been considering developing Web pages on the Internet will be aware of Java as a language, most of us probably regard it pre-eminently as a tool for creating animated icons (applets). However, this is but one example of what the publishers term the language's *Webcentric design*. When coupled with its clean structure and automated memory management, Java can then be seen as a development tool of great appeal.

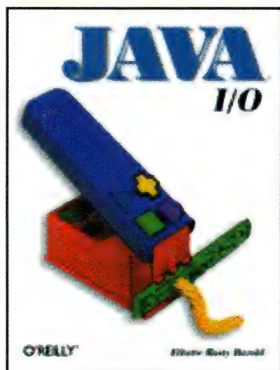
Elliotte Harold's previous book in the Java Series was *Java Network Programming*. After publication, he noticed that many questions he received related to input and output (I/O), rather than to network programming itself. So when Java 1.1 was released with a greatly enlarged and therefore much more powerful *java.io* package and many new I/O classes, it became evident that a book which fully described Java I/O was warranted.

The book contains 17 chapters, divided into four parts plus two appendixes.

Part I understandably introduces the basic architecture and design of the *java.io* package and then moves on to instruction in the use of both *Output Streams* and *Input Streams*.

Part II is concerned with Data Sources, detailed in a chapter on *File Streams* and

another on *Network Streams*. The File Stream chapter introduces the design of a File Viewer program, which is progressively developed in later chapters.



Filter Streams are described and explained in Part III, the relevant chapters being *Filter Streams*, *Data Streams*, *Streams in Memory*, *Compressing Streams* and *Cryptographic Streams*.

Finally, Part IV deals with more advanced topics and some miscellany. These include chapters on *Object*

Serialisation, *Working with Files*, *File Dialogs*, *Multilingual Character Sets*, *Readers & Writers*, *Formatted I/O* and the *Java Communications API*.

Appendix A details additional resources, such as books, mailing lists and web sites which relate to some of the issues raised in the book. Appendix B describes character sets and points to where further details can be obtained on the Internet for various character sets relating to specific languages which are included in Unicode. One of the great strengths of this book lies in the orderly mass of code examples provided, which is optimised for legibility rather than speed. You can access the complete set of examples on the Internet from <ftp://metalab.unc.edu/pub/languages/java/javafaq/>

Examples that are likely to be re-used are placed in the *com.mcfacq* package. Others that simply demonstrate a point or run as a stand alone program or applet are placed in the default package.

The author assumes that the reader has a basic familiarity with Java — that means being thoroughly familiar with its syntax, comfortable with object-oriented programming and its terms (such as instances, objects and classes) and experienced in writing at least simple applications and applets.

If you pass muster in these areas you are likely to find this book of great interest and enjoyment.

Elliotte Harold conducts a popular independent Java site (Cafe au Lait) on the Web at <http://sunsite/unc.edu/javafaq/>

The site features almost daily news updates on Java topics, paying particular attention to any new material closely related to his books.

Elliotte Rusty Harold:
Java I/O ISBN: 1-56592-485-1
Published by O'Reilly & Associates, Inc.
574 pages
RRP \$US32.95

Members Free Ads

Four month old IBM **ThinkPad 770Z**:
Pentium II 366 MHz, 128 MB RAM, 14.1GB
HDD, 14.1" TFT Display, DVD-ROM,
ThinkPad Internal Modem, External FDD,
Windows 98, Overnighter Carry Bag. \$9300
new. Asking \$7000 ONO. Contact Dick at
moorer@enternet.com.au or 0418 411 589

Wanted Three (3) original copies of
FileMaker Pro V3 (not V4) on CD for Win9x,
each with unique S/N. Alec 9836 8307 or
nestor@melbpc.org.au

Wanted IBM sound card, called in the
documentation "M-Audio Capture & Playback
Adapter" (now 6-7 years old).
Peter Gauld lawsoft@mira.net
Phone: (03)9379 0777

Linux Guide for Newbies. (Red Hat v 6.0 &
Slackware 4.0.) A book by newbies for
newbies. 76 pages. A step-by-step guide to
installation including how to connect to the
Internet. The software is FREE under the
concept of *Open Source*. It is **not** shareware.
This is an invitation to have a look at the
"Rebellion". Cost: \$10 plus \$2.50 P&H
Copies made on request.
e-mail: arjuna@melbpc.org.au (preferred)
Phone: (03) 9799 8884

PGP Security Suite

PGP — a.k.a. Pretty Good Privacy — is one of the most commonly used and highly regarded encryption methods around. McAfee Associates' PGP Security Suite includes PGP Personal Edition 6, Guard Dog 2 and Oil Change, an almost-complete security package for your computer. "Almost", I say, because no software package can fill those most basic of security holes — not securing your password, leaving your computer logged on and unattended, and complacency.

Complacency that leads you to delete a sensitive file the normal way "just this once"; complacency that assumes that just because you're using a security package, "you're right, mate"; complacency that makes you fail to keep abreast of new security threats.

PGP — What Is It?

Each user has a key pair, consisting of a public key and a private key. The public key is available to anyone, but the private key you keep to yourself. You encrypt and sign messages and documents with your private key, and recipients use your public key to

decrypt your messages and verify your signature. If someone wants to send you an encrypted message, they encode it with your public key, and you use your private key to decrypt it. You can register your public key on PGP key servers on the Internet, so anyone who needs to send you secure e-mail can search for and retrieve your public key. Alternatively, you can distribute your public key yourself. To use PGP, both sending and receiving parties must have some form of PGP software installed.

PGP Personal Edition — How It Works

To create a key pair, you answer the simple questions asked by the Key Generation Wizard (see Figure 1) and choose a passphrase, which is a longer version of a password. The longer the key pair (choose from lengths of 768 to 4096 bits), the more secure the encryption, but the trade-off is that longer keys slow down processing. Once you have your key pair, you simply invoke the PGP tools as the need arises, and enter your passphrase where prompted. If you're sending an encrypted message, you select the



*Bernadette
Houghton*

recipient's public key from the PGP keyring on your computer — much like choosing an address from an address book. If you don't know the recipient's public key, you can use the PGP tools to search for it on the Internet then add it to your keyring. The PGP tools are accessible from the system tray or a floating toolbar (see Figure 2) or if you're using a supported e-mail program, directly on the toolbar. A welcome enhancement in version 6 is the ability to encrypt, decrypt, sign and verify documents directly within most applications without having to first copy and paste.

PGP isn't just for messages; you can use it to secure files on your computer as well. From version 6, you can also create PGP-encrypted volumes on your hard disk or removable media. These behave just like a disk partition on which you can install applications, store sensitive data, perform file operations and so on. The difference is that the files on the PGP volume are encrypted, accessible only when you mount the volume with the correct passphrase. For further security, you can set PGP volumes to automatically unmount after set periods of inactivity.

More New Features

Version 6 of PGP Personal Edition has several new security features, most of which attempt to minimise external risks, such as sensitive file fragments remaining on your hard disk, and electromagnetic signals radiating from your computer. New key security features include the ability to add signed photographic IDs (see Figure 3) to your public key, the ability to create multiple encryption keys which you can activate and revoke independently of each other,

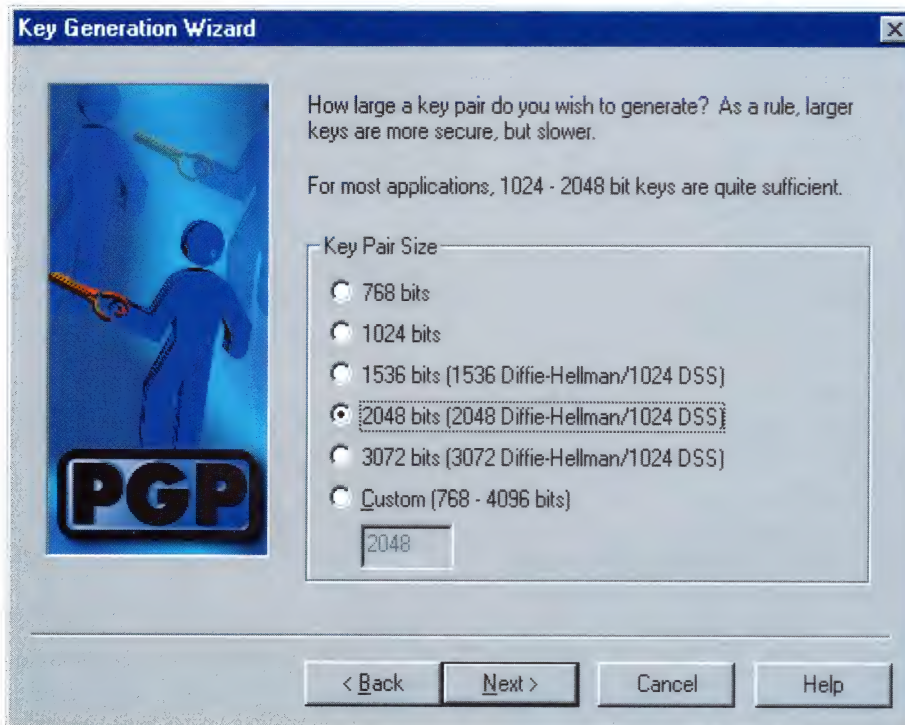


Figure 1. Generating a key pair with the Key Generation Wizard



Figure 2. PGPTools's floating toolbox

and the ability to set signatures on other keys to expire after a given date; a useful feature when you need to grant validity to a key for a limited time. For extra high security, you can split keys among multiple people; when you need to sign or decrypt with a split key, a designated number of participating shareholders must sign.

Guard Dog

Guard Dog acts as a firewall between your computer and the Internet, offering a variety of security measures to protect your privacy and the integrity of your data. When you first start Guard Dog, it takes you through a short interview process and thereafter hides away, reappearing only when it detects a potential hazard or when a scheduled system security check is due. When it detects a hazard, it presents an explanation, recommends a course of action and offers to fix the problem.

Guard Dog has several monitors, each of which you can configure independently. There are monitors to check the currency of your emergency disk, Web browser software and Guard Dog itself. To protect your privacy, Guard Dog prevents your personal details and financial information (bank account numbers, credit card numbers etc) from being sent out without your approval. It warns you when a Web site attempts to place a cookie on your computer, and prevents Web sites from transferring your personal information to other sites (disconcerting how often this happens!). It also cleans up your tracks when you exit your browser.

Guard Dog controls which programs have access to the Internet, and warns you of various potentially hazardous activities, e.g. your modem dialling out silently, one program trying to access

another, and suspicious ActiveX and file deletion activity. Guard Dog also warns you when you enter known harmful Web sites, and can encrypt sensitive files and warn you of any access attempts. Another convenience is the Browser Buddy which stores all your Web site passwords in a central location, from which you can drag them into a Web form as necessary. Virus Sentry monitors your computer for viruses.

There are a number of changes since I last reviewed Guard Dog (*PC Update*, June 1998). The most significant is that Guard Dog now actually corrects problems. The interface is also much prettier, there are more checks, and you can protect Guard Dog settings with a password.

I've been using Guard Dog since its original incarnation and like the peace of mind it gives me while using the Internet. However, there is one very big security hole — you can simply turn it off at the system tray, no questions asked. Keep this in mind if you're relying on Guard Dog to protect your computer while it's being used by others.

Oil Change

Oil Change identifies software on your computer, then checks on the Internet to see if there are any updates available. If there are, it offers you the option of downloading and installing them. Oil Change checks only for software which it knows about, but will undo any installation it has done.

Assessment

Used properly and with appropriate attention to external security (password safeguards etc), PGP Personal Edition will secure your data with a high level of reliability. Guard Dog will protect your data

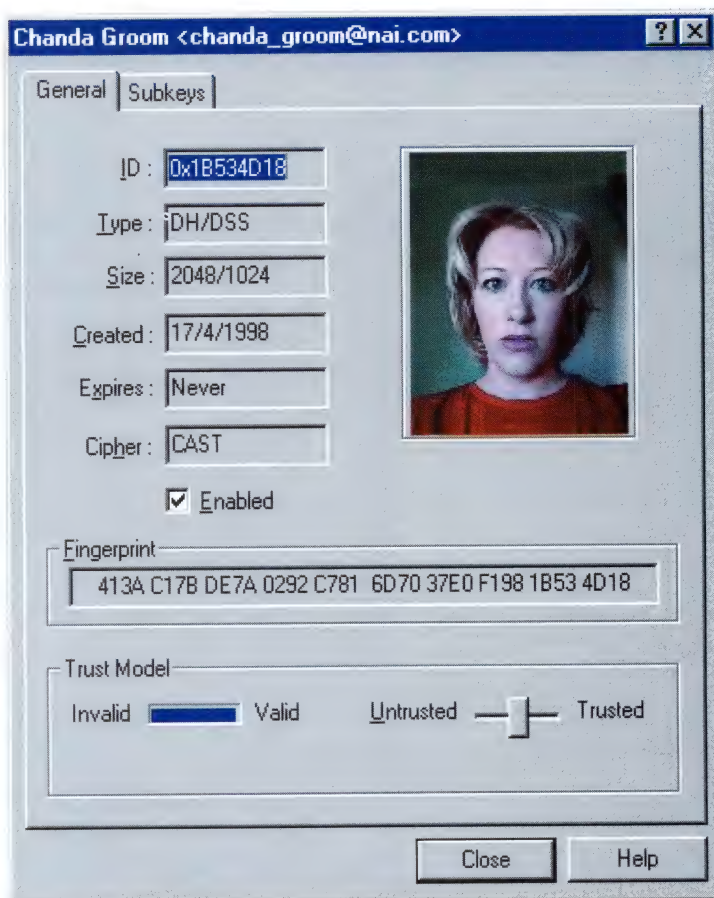


Figure 3. Properties of a key with photographic ID

while you're using the Internet — as long as it remains active. And Oil Change will help ensure your software is current. PGP Security Suite includes two complete licences in the package, each with its own CD, manual and registration card.

PGP Security Suite is a worthwhile package (and I'm very fond of Guard Dog!). Buy it and install it, but don't become complacent.

Cost and Availability

Suggested retail price \$79.95. Available from Chandlers, David Jones, Dick Smith Electronics, Harvey Norman. Download trial versions of individual products from <http://download.mcafee.com/eval/evaluate.asp>

Minimum System Requirements

486 processor (Pentium recommended), Windows 95 or Windows NT, 16 MB RAM, 256-colour monitor, CD-ROM drive. Certain features require Internet connection.

□

CorelDraw 9

When I first started messing around with graphics, back in the days of Windows 3.11, everybody I know in the graphics and pre-press industry had jokes about "CrashDraw". With hindsight this was probably partly due to the fact that most of them were (if you'll excuse the expression) "Mac people". Corel enjoyed at best a mediocre reputation throughout the pre-press bureaus.

So apart from a quick look once in a while, I studiously avoided it.

Then, a couple of years back, a mate invited me along to a Corel presentation (with the flippant comment that at least we'll get a bite to eat, a few free drinks and maybe a T-shirt). I thought "Oh, why not?". There was nothing good on TV and he's always good company. So I went along with the idea.

Well, they gave us our T-shirts and a CD-ROM with CorelDraw 8 on it but nothing to drink until after we listened to the sales pitch. Anyway, this young Canadian chap started talking about how CorelDraw is a good program — then he demonstrated it. By the time he had finished we were impressed, to put it mildly. Next day I loaded the CD-ROM, ran the tutor, had a play around and became an instant convert.

Then, recently, CorelDraw9 (CD9) shipped.

This is one hell of a product for the price. The package comprises CD9 — a vector graphic (drawing) program and

PhotoPaint — a bitmap image manipulation program and a screen capture utility, texture creator, thumbnail image cataloguing software, a barcode creator, a tracing program for converting bitmap images to vector graphics plus, what I think is the best font management program I've ever seen or used, Bitstream Font Manager.

The Components

CorelDraw 9 is basically a vector graphic drawing package along the lines of Adobe Illustrator or Macromedia Freehand. You create objects or pictures by drawing them with the various tools, pens and so on, using either Bezier curves, prearranged objects such as rectangles or ellipses that can be easily converted to whatever shape you like; colour them in, play round with them, lay them out on a page and hey presto.

Additionally, CD9 incorporates full page layout capability; you can even have subsequent pages of different sizes and allows for the inclusion of bitmap images. So, it's really a bit more than just a vector drawing graphic program. You could actually put the whole of this magazine together on it if you had the time and patience, although I think that might stretch the resources a bit thin. However, for doing CD artwork and the usual 8-page booklet CD9 is fine and nowadays that's all I use — instead of the three separate programs I once needed.

The program is, at first, a bit daunting because there is so much information

and so many options available on the screen. But, once you become accustomed to where to find things, it's amazingly quick and easy to use. The built-in tutorial leads you very quickly and easily through all the basics and if you have a general knowledge of graphics programs, it takes only a short time before you're up and running.

The Property Bar actually changes depending on which tool you've selected so that the options become self-explanatory once you're familiar with them. The choices are a little mind-boggling at first. For example, it takes a few mouse clicks to create a polygon, change the number of sides, convert it to a star, morph it, fill it with weird and wonderful textures, add drop shadows, then copy and paste it (right-click, drag and drop — great time saver) and then run a blend of the same object with colour changes. (see Figure 1)

The CD cover for the Speed Kings, apart from drawing one little guy, took about 15 minutes — a job that would have taken hours a few years back. (see Figure 2)

Then there's the very nice interface to all the other parts of the package. You can import bitmaps and do basic editing on them without leaving CD9. Full editing is just as easy — click on the menu option: Bitmaps, Edit Bitmap... and PhotoPaint opens up containing your selected image ready to edit. When you close PhotoPaint, answer Yes to the popup question and your changes are saved directly into your CorelDraw file.

The number of features are far too numerous to handle satisfactorily in one article but a few deserve special mention.



Jim
Colbert

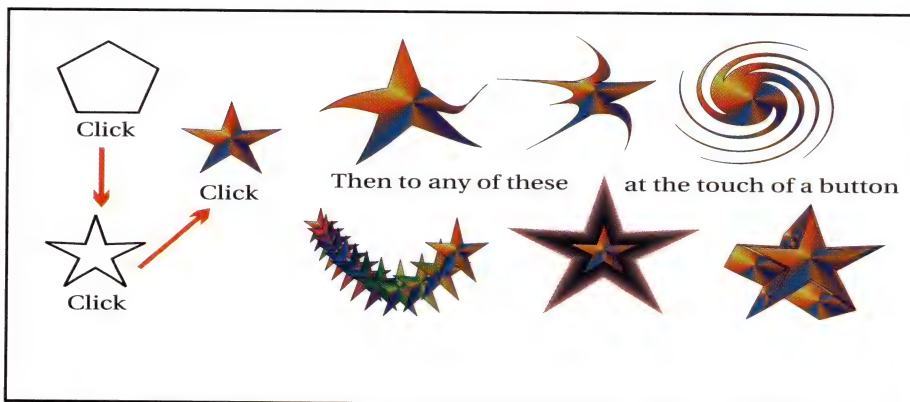


Figure 1. Wide variety of shapes at the touch of a button

The interactive fill tools enables you to create multicolour fills of various types at the click of a mouse button; extrusions, transparency, blending, distorting, contouring, drop shadows and more are just a mouse click away and you can even paint with images.

As well as that, CD9 now seems to be compatible with almost everything. It exports to EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) files perfectly as far as I've been able to see; I have exported to EPS and then printed the EPS file from a Mac using Quark Xpress with no problems; and it has a list of conversion options from/to other programs that is too long to detail here.

Then there's the printing capability. First, when you go to print it comes up with a list of "issues" — problems that you could run into when you print your work or, more importantly, problems that could occur when you send your work to a prepress bureau or printer. This saves a lot of heartache for both the user and, more importantly, the printer/bureau (if you give to a bureau files containing problems, don't expect the greatest service — if any at all!).

Then, when you go to print preview, you have all these layout options — such as printing your image 5x4 (five copies cross and four copies up, or any other combination you want) — great for business cards and things like that — and you can do page imposition and layout, adjust gutters and margins, print books perfect-bound or saddle-stitched, work & turn, or work & tumble. If that's all a foreign language to you, then you're not familiar with the printing industry. Just a few years ago, that work required a page imposition program that could cost you over \$4,000.

Of course it does web design work, too.

Then there's PhotoPaint. I should preface these words by stating that primarily I'm still a Photoshop user — I haven't had the time to fully learn PhotoPaint and there are a few more differences here than there are between, say, Illustrator and Draw.

All the standard bitmap editing functions are there with the facility to add as many layers and bits and pieces that you could want. For Photoshop users the terminology is quite different

so it will take you a bit longer to get used to it, but the functionality appears pretty much the same.

I'm told that PhotoPaint does not have 16-bit per channel capabilities, making it less useful for colour correction than, say, Photoshop but apart from that I can't see an enormous amount of difference.

Of the other add-ons in the package, Corel Trace is a program that converts bitmap images to vector graphics (or to complex line drawings), which you can then edit and play around with in CorelDraw. This is useful if you have to scan a piece of artwork but don't want the hassle of working with relatively enormous bitmap files.

Canto Cumulus is an image-cataloguing program that allows you to keep track of all those image files you have lying around. The version included is only the LE (Limited Edition) but it's more than adequate for most usage.

Finally there's the Bitstream Font Navigator. Really simple and, in my opinion, worth its weight in gold. This lovely little package finds all the fonts on your system and lets you install and uninstall by just dragging and dropping; as well as letting you find all those

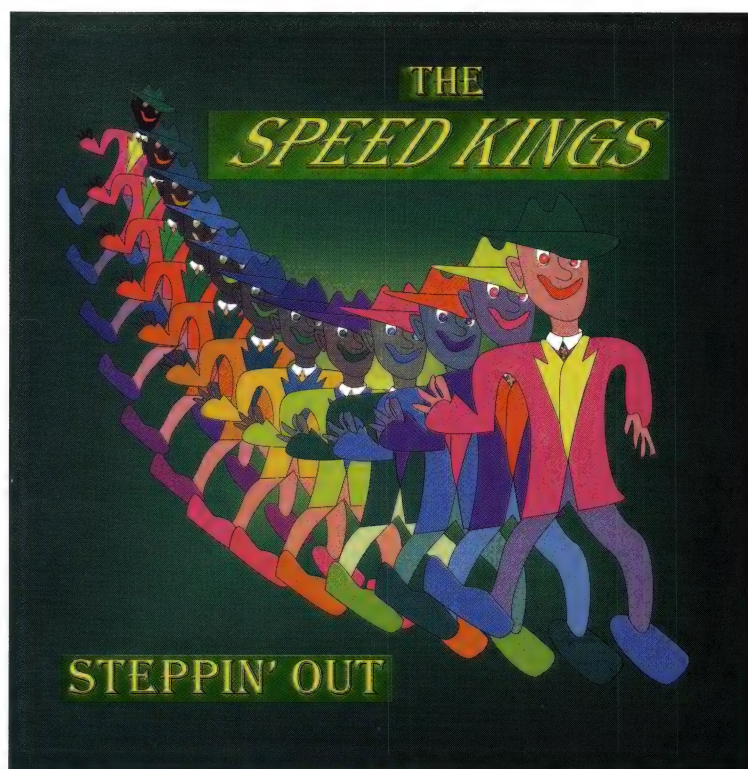


Figure 2. The CD cover for the Speed Kings

duplicate fonts that come from installing lots of different packages. You can also browse and view all the installed and/or uninstalled fonts using any text you like, browsing by font type, by font style and so forth.

That's the package in brief. The really interesting thing is the price. According to the latest Age Green Guide the Adobe Publishing Collection is available for \$1,749, Adobe Illustrator 8 costs \$699 by itself and Photoshop 5.5 is \$1,059 (including Image Ready). The CorelDraw 9 upgrade is \$408 with the Select edition (which entitles you to an upgrade) available in Melbourne for just \$69.

As a sophisticated graphics package, CorelDraw 9 is excellent. At the price, it has to be the best value-for-money graphics package on the market.

About the Author:

Jim Colbert has spent most of his life in international banking and structured financing and currently runs a boutique corporate finance and advisory service. He also moonlights as a photographer and graphic designer. In his spare time he messes around with computers and ties flies on the vague off chance that he'll eventually catch a fish. □

Corel WordPerfect Office 2000: Voice-Powered Edition

Most of WordPerfect Office 2000's new features focus on enhancing useability and flexibility, and Corel has also put some effort into increasing compatibility with Microsoft Office. Value for money has long been a WordPerfect Office watchword, and at half the price of Microsoft's offering, WordPerfect Office is a tempting — and solid — product.

I reviewed Office's Voice-Powered Edition which includes —

- WordPerfect 9 for word processing
- Quattro Pro 9 spreadsheet
- Corel Presentations 9 presentation graphics
- CorelCENTRAL 9 personal information manager
- Philips' FreeSpeech 2000 voice-recognition program
- Trellix 2.1 for hypertext document publishing
- Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications
- Bitstream Font Navigator 3.0
- Inso Corporation's Quick View Plus 5.1
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Plus, as usual, an abundance of font, clipart, photographs and various add-ons which have become standard

offerings in WordPerfect Office, e.g. Corel Versions and DAD (Desktop Application Director).

Suite-Wide Improvements

Most of Office's applications look a little different, with rearranged toolbars and menus, and extra property bars. One of the niftiest new features is Corel RealTime Preview which displays your document in different formats as you scroll a selection list. ShowCase is a useful learning tool offering a series of sample documents; just click on a document to discover how to achieve similar effects.

You've probably felt the frustration of needing to use a specific feature of an application, only to discover you haven't installed it in the first place. *Install-As-You-Go* helps keep your blood pressure down by asking if you want to install a feature when you try to invoke it, then doing so without further ado. A nice side-effect is that you can make more efficient use of your hard disk space by installing a minimal feature-set right up front.

The ability to categorise images, sounds and movies in the Scrapbook, search for specific items, and preview them before dragging and dropping into your document is useful. Quattro Pro, Presentations and CorelCENTRAL include a wizard to help you publish



Bernadette Houghton

your work in HTML format. WordPerfect still has its familiar Internet Publisher, but you'll probably prefer to create Web documents in Trellix instead it's much easier and quicker.

Microsoft's Visual Basic language gives you greater flexibility in automating tasks, particularly tasks which cover multiple applications; it integrates well with PerfectScript, and you can call PerfectScript commands from within Visual Basic.

Corel WordPerfect

I found no noticeable speed difference between Word Perfect 9 and its predecessor, both of which I have installed on my computer. If you share documents with other users, you'll appreciate that WordPerfect 9 continues to use the same file format as it has since WordPerfect 6. And the ability to embed fonts within documents means they'll always look right on other PCs. Among the handiest of WordPerfect 9's new features is Autoscroll, which enables you to scroll your document automatically and adjust scrolling speed

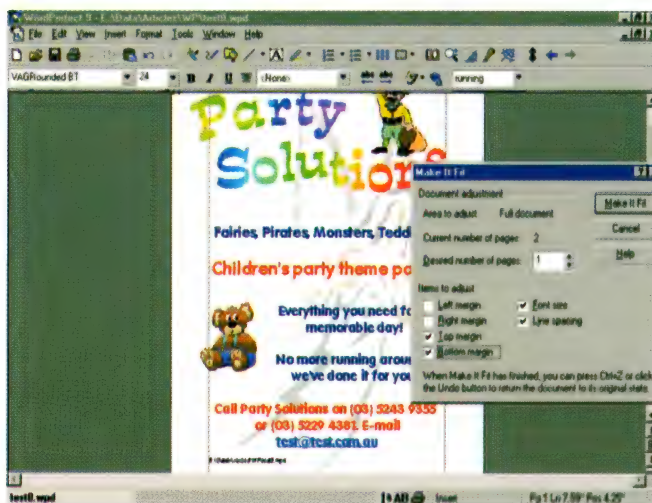


Figure 1. WordPerfect's Make-It-Fit

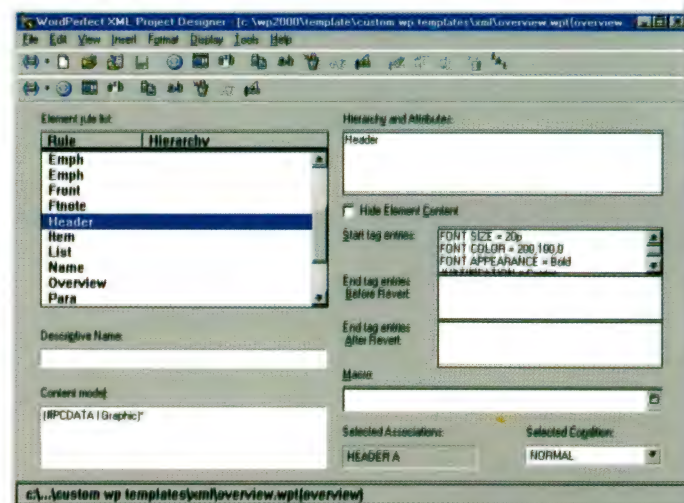


Figure 2. WordPerfect's XML Project Designer

with a tweak of the mouse. I liked WordPerfect's ability to fit whole documents or selected areas into a specific number of pages, and the ability to collate multiple-paged documents. You can also add text to shapes on the fly and create tables with a 3D look.

You can edit in print preview mode, and create documents in both XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language). The user interface is orientated towards XML, but SGML functionality remains the same as that available with WordPerfect 8.

Corel Quattro Pro

Most of Quattro Pro's new features are useful productivity enhancers. In the interests of file compatibility with Microsoft Excel, Quattro Pro 9 supports larger notebook sizes and stores Excel information which it can't use, later converting it back to Excel if necessary. If you're used to working in Excel, Lotus 1-2-3 or earlier versions of Quattro Pro, you can continue to work under the same menu structure.

Enhanced navigation and search capabilities make it easier to move through large amounts of data. One of my most frequent sins is attempting to format cells outside my spreadsheet's range; but that's no longer a problem with Quattro Pro's new ability to restrict spreadsheet sizes. Function *Tip-As-You-Type* prompts you for the next value requested by a function; very handy if you forget what goes next. Another simple but convenient feature is the ability to total rows and columns by typing in the word "total" next to the rows or columns you wish to tote. A nice touch is the ability to automatically apply formatting to any new rows and columns you add to a spreadsheet.

Workgroup features include support for simultaneous editing by multiple users, with changes made by each user recorded. A review process, similar to that used in WordPerfect, enables you to review individual changes and accept or

reject them as required. New Web features include the ability to link a notebook to a Web site and have Quattro Pro update the notebook at specific intervals, run Web queries and import data from Web sites.

Corel Presentations

I've been fond of Presentations since version 8, and found version 9 even better. I like the range of sample files and templates, which help you create polished, professional presentations with little effort. And I like how you can quickly change the whole look of a document in a few clicks. In line with Corel's aim to increase Microsoft compatibility, Presentations now exports slide shows in PowerPoint format.

Enhancements in the current version include over 100 extra predefined shapes and small graphics such as buttons and arrows. The ability to apply 3D effects, manipulate text and apply special effects to bitmap images, such as Brightness, Emboss and Smooth is a nice addition. Presentations can also fit documents to any size page, create books, banners, posters, booklets and handouts, and print on both sides of the paper.

CorelCENTRAL 9

CorelCENTRAL has undergone a major face-lift. It's a skimpier, lighter product, with less memory overhead and hard disk requirements. It runs faster and is more flexible, mainly because each module — the calendar, address book, memos and card file, opens in a separate window. Day Planner, a new feature, is now the *entry point* to CorelCENTRAL. Summarising the day's events and tasks, it hides away on the edge of the screen until needed. Day Planner and the Calendar share tasks and events, so when you add something to one it's automatically displayed in the other. New in CorelCENTRAL 9 is the ability to create subtasks for both tasks and events.

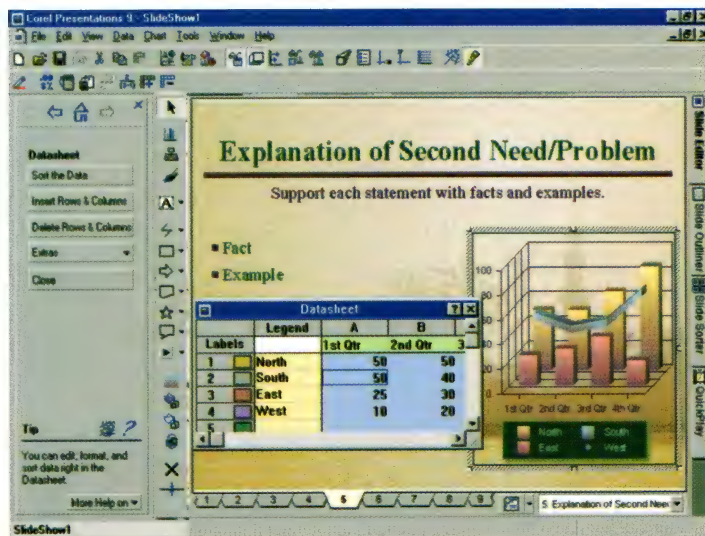


Figure 3. Creating a chart in Presentations

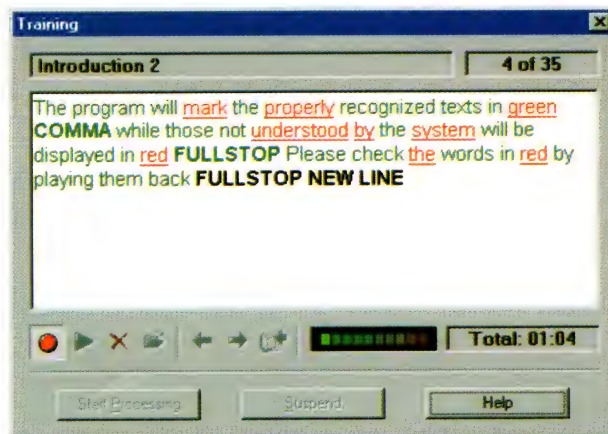


Figure 4. FreeSpeech's training module

Philips FreeSpeech 2000

Instead of using the mouse or keyboard, you can speak to your computer with Philips FreeSpeech 2000 using the included headset. Not only can you dictate into an application, you can actually bark out orders; for instance, tell your computer to set formatting, navigate a document or manipulate windows.

Before you can begin using FreeSpeech, you must train it to recognise your voice. Training involves dictating a series of short exercises to build up a minimum recorded training time of 15 minutes. It took me an hour or so to build up to the minimum time; how long it takes you will depend largely on the speed of your computer and how much memory it has. The more training you've done, the better FreeSpeech's recognition rate and the faster it processes what you speak. FreeSpeech can continue learning as you go, so the recognition rate improves as time goes on.

FreeSpeech requires a hefty dose of system hardware — the documentation recommends a minimum of 64 MB RAM for WordPerfect itself. Don't even think of trying it with anything less. I have 160 MB RAM on my Pentium II-233 and found this enabled me to dictate at a comfortable pace of around 130 words/minute. Don't judge FreeSpeech until you've done the training, though. I found its recognition rate was virtually zilch before training, but consistently reached 100% in training situations by the time I'd accumulated 22 minutes of recorded training. In non-training situations, the recognition rate reached 70% in WordPerfect, with improvement still occurring. While I didn't quite manage to control my computer totally hands-free — that mouse was hard to resist when FreeSpeech gave me its equivalent of blank looks! — I was able to control WordPerfect a fair bit by voice alone. FreeSpeech also works with Quattro Pro and the other programs in the Suite, although not quite as smoothly as it does with WordPerfect.

Trellix 2.1

Trellix is a visual HTML document creator which uses predefined structures and preformatted page looks. You simply add text, graphics, extra pages and so on into "slots". It's actually much more flexible than it sounds, and

you can create your own templates and change the whole look of your document in a couple of clicks.

Trellix also supports "container" pages which you can use to present information from elsewhere e.g. a spreadsheet, another Trellex page or a "live" web page which updates as the source document changes.

You can distribute Trellex documents to others, along with a Trellex viewer, or export them to HTML format.

Alternatively, you can bundle the files into a Treligram, a self-extracting EXE file which includes the HTML and associated image files. Treligrams display in the reader's Web browser.

Trellix is a nice program and you don't need to know any HTML. There is plenty of assistance to help you learn it, with various tutorials and sample documents available.

Microsoft Office Compatibility

Despite Corel's claims, WordPerfect Office hasn't quite achieved 100% compatibility with Microsoft Office. I converted some Word 6 and Excel 6 documents to WordPerfect and Quattro Pro format respectively, then back again. Word problems included watermarks with different formatting when opened in WP, and Excel OLE objects converted with black fills. Further problems occurred when I converted these documents back into Word 6 format. However, I experienced no problems when converting Excel 6 spreadsheets to Quattro Pro.

Assessment

With this release, Corel has got rid of some stuff that didn't quite fit in previous versions, and relied more on industry standards. Netscape, for instance, is no longer part of CorelCENTRAL, and electronic help documents are in the more common Adobe Acrobat format. The new features are largely useful, practical enhancements, and there is no noticeable performance degradation.

The core programs have continued to improve and become more user-friendly, with most tools easily accessible. I found it a strong product, and the latest upgrade a significant one. Microsoft Office compatibility isn't perfect but WordPerfect Office 2000 can hold its own in other respects, besides being a lot cheaper.

Cost and Availability

Standard edition: \$619 (\$249 upgrade). Voice-powered edition: \$739 (\$349 upgrade). Available from your local software reseller or from www.ontarget.com.au/upgrade/corel.html. Contact Corel Customer Service if necessary on 1 800 658 850.

Minimum System Requirements

Standard edition: 486/66 processor, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended), 170 MB free hard disk space (280 MB for a typical installation), CD-ROM drive, VGA monitor, mouse.

FreeSpeech: Pentium 166 (Pentium 200 recommended), Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 48 MB RAM (64 MB recommended), 150 MB of free hard disk space before installation (this is in addition to the 170 MB required by WordPerfect Office itself) and 50 MB after Philips FreeSpeech 2000 Training has been completed; CD-ROM drive, VGA monitor, mouse, Windows-compatible sound card.



Figure 5. Creating hypertext documents in Trellex

Special Interest Group Meetings

SIG Co-ordinator, Dave Botherway

Access (Database)

access-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Monday
6.30 — 8.30 pm
Ray Watson
9576 8520 BH & AH

Assembly & Other Languages

alt-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Thursday
7.00 — 10.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Felix Hofmann
9523 5400 AH
Don McKenzie
9521 3060 BH

Ballarat

ball-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Thursday
7.30 — 9.45 pm
(except school holidays)
Ballarat & Clarendon
College
514 Mair St, Ballarat
VicRoads map 254 L12
Ken Smith
5332 7851 BH & AH

Bendigo

bend-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Wednesday
7.30 — 10.00 pm
Girton Grammar School
105 Mackenzie St,
Bendigo
Vine Street entrance,
then follow the signs)
VicRoads map 282 K14
Russ Collins
5439 3708 BH & AH
Joe Henry

Clarion

clar-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Wednesday
7.00 — 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Chris Livingstone
9431 1897 BH & AH

Communications

comm-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Wednesday
7.00 — 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Philip Lew
9822 2998 BH
(brief calls)

Daytime

day-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Thursday
10.00 am — 12 noon
Melb PC SIG Room
Don Buchanan
9509 7119 BH & AH
Graeme Minto
9440 5030 BH & AH

Digital Photo

3rd Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
0417 525 171

East

east-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Tuesday
7.30 — 10.00 pm
Multinet Theatre
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
Melway map 62 H2
Keith Beresford
9733 5044 AH
9736 2515 BH
Margaret Brown
9874 5778

East Workshop

east-ws@melbpc.org.au
Sunday following the
East SIG meeting,
10.30 am — 2.30 pm
Multinet Theatre
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
Melway map 62 H2
Ken Gubbins
9898 5478 PH/FAX

Graphics

graph-sig@melbpc.org.au
3rd Monday
7.30 — 10.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Yahya Abdal-Aziz
9562 1023 AH (brief
calls)

Hardware

hardware-sig@melbpc.org.au
3rd Wednesday
7.00 — 11.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Felix Hofmann
9523 5400 AH
Thom Lyons
0417 525 171

LUBe

lube-sig@melbpc.org.au
3rd Thursday
7.00 — 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
0417 525 171

MACE

(Melbourne Atari
Computer Enthusiasts)
mace-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Sunday
10.00 am — 2.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Graham Hurford
9416 1126 AH
Roger Davies
9879 1109 BH & AH

Music

music-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Thursday
7.30 — 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Yahya Abdal-Aziz
9562 1023 AH (brief
calls)
Eric Best
9376 1984 AH

New Users, East

newe-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Tuesday
7.30 — 10.00 pm
(except January)
St Mark's Anglican
Church,
Cnr Canterbury & Burke
Rds, Camberwell
Melway map 45 J10
Doug Brooke
9822 3458 BH & AH

NT

2nd Tuesday,
7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Andrew Callaway
9619 4067 BH

OS/2

os2-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Tuesday
6.30 — 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
John Angelico
9544 8792 BH & AH

Programming

prog-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Tuesday,
7.30 — 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Ross Hall
5428 6470 AH
9699 4000 BH
Andrew Callaway
9619 4067 BH

Quicken

quicken-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Thursday
7.00 — 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Viv Martin
9583 5372 BH & AH

Retired & Interested Persons

rip-sig@melbpc.org.au
10.00 am — 12 noon
4th (not last) Friday
Lutheran Church,
25 Cypress Ave,
Glen Waverley
Melway map 62 A9
Ken Thomas
9884 5309 AH
Noel Peters

Video Editing (General)

video-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Monday
7.00 — 9.30 pm
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn
Melway map 46 E8
Albert Vanzet
9439 1768 BH & AH

Video Editing (Non-linear)

videonl-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Tuesday
(including Cup day)
7.30 — 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG room
Lawrie Weston
9742 3738

Warragul

warr-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Friday
7.30 — 10.00 pm
Warragul Education
Centre Smith St,
Warragul
VicRoads map 337 Q8
Lindsay Perston
5623 1756 AH

Web Development

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Monday,
7.00 — 10.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
0417 525 171

Web Development workshop

webdev-sig@melbpc.org.au
2nd Saturday, 10.30 am
Melb PC SIG Room
Thom Lyons
0417 525 171
(members may bring their
own systems)

Western Suburbs

west-sig@melbpc.org.au
4th Tuesday
7.00 — 9.00 pm
Sunshine Squash
Centre,
cnr Kent and Stewart
Sts, Sunshine
Melway map 41 B2
Robert Mead
9312 5427 AH

Windows

win-sig@melbpc.org.au
1st Monday
7.00 — 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room
Lynn Pollock
9598 3186 AH
9533 5002 BH

Updates/ Corrections
Please send to:

Dave Botherway
SIG Coordinator
daveb@melbpc.org.au

Web Pages

Many SIGs have their
own home pages.
Links to these can be
found at
www.melbpc.org.au/sig

SIGs are the life blood
of MelbPC.
Join one today

SIG Meeting Reports

Daytime

Don Buchanan

With Graeme Minto in charge of proceedings, our September presenter was our member Ruth James. Ruth spent much of her Windows Housekeeping morning dealing with why/how often/where/how we should back up the data that we have spent so much time and effort feeding into our computer and, daily, nay hourly risk losing part or all of our good work.

Some of the time we spend on our computer might be simply interesting or useful. Alternatively, loss of the expended effort could be absolutely devastating to all concerned. So how often should we back up? After all, a bank is handling many thousands of important transactions every hour, so it is doing incremental backups as each working day progresses, then going through a major backup each night to be ready for the next business day. Then what about us? Surely we have all had the occasional minor hiccup, and many have endured a bigger trauma that has resulted in an amount of stress dependent on the amount of backing up that we have done. At least "save" a few times as we are preparing a file. Then where to back up a spare copy of the information?

Onto the same hard disk? Onto a floppy? Onto a Zip disk or Tape? Compressed using say Winzip? A CD Burner? Or what about onto another computer? Is it important enough to warrant physically removing the backup information each night well away from the base computer?

Ruth showed us how to do some of the backup via say "save as" to wherever you decide, or Accessories/System Tools/Backup. The demonstration showed us that we could use a small program such as HJSplit to span a number of floppies if needed, or that we could compress if we so desired. Then eventually how to Test and/or Restore our work.

This led to the advantage of using maximum of 8 characters in the name of the backup file. Thank you Ruth for a first-class morning.

After a Q & A session and as the meeting ended (and for some time afterwards)

Graeme very usefully took us through how to make a copy of the Windows folder. The purpose of this is to restore a failed Windows installation with all your options left intact. Of course you need about 200 MB+ of free hard disk space for Win98. Thank you Graeme.

East

Margaret Brown

Genealogy

Graeme Green is a U3A tutor in the areas of computing and genealogy, seemingly the perfect combination of the skills needed to create a family history.

Graeme feels strongly that such a record should be far more than a sterile list of names and dates. The inclusion of facts and anecdotes can add a degree of social dimension that can really bring the document to life. Future generations will never know about or appreciate the efforts and difficulties that may have been faced in generations past unless these details are included.

He discussed the most commonly used programs available at present and gave advice regarding selection and also gave practical tips regarding effective research methods and the organisation and storage of results.

Graeme has compiled an extensive list of societies and contacts with would be of invaluable assistance to anyone commencing genealogical research. Details of these addresses and Web sites are available to members. Contact Bruno Dik bruno_dik@mail.yahoo.com.au

Scanners

Any respectable family history includes images, probably scanned from old, discoloured, torn or damaged photographs or documents.

Steven Brown from The Scanner Place in Box Hill (one of our PC Update advertisers) was the ideal speaker to show what photo editing software can do

to help. His presentation was refreshingly free of sales pitch but rather a practical and most valuable demonstration of just what can be done with photo editing. Most of our members are more familiar with the document management and OCR facilities of their scanners, so the demonstration created intense interest.

It seems that anything is possible with the software now available. As well as the restoration capabilities the message is "If you can do it with glue, scissors and a colour photocopier, you can do it with a scanner".

The meeting format continues to be of general interest with no specific focus:

7.00 pm: New users (a small group of absolute beginners)

7.30 pm: Main Meeting

Questions and Answers with George Skarbek who also keeps us up-to-date with Melp PC Internet news. Break Mingle, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

Meeting topics: Usually a speaker from within our own group and also an invited speaker. 10.00 pm close.

Graphics

September's theme was printing, and we had a look at the output from some HP inkjets, both on plain and glossy paper, along with some discussion on mechanics of inkjet printing and the various types available.

Question and answer time raised the issue of the numerous temporary files some programs are capable of leaving behind, ending with Yahya showing us how to modify the AUTOEXEC.BAT file to delete temporary files during Windows startup, a technique which still has its worthy place in the modern GUI world. Another question led to discussion of the place and function of the Windows registry, and the several places that programs may be run from when Windows starts up.

One of the demos for the night showed us the use of Teddy, an intuitive sketch-based 3D modelling program written in

Java, currently in a usable but still experimental form. The Teddy home page can be found at: <http://www.mtl.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~takeo/teddy/teddy.htm>

November: Ray-tracing software.

December: The Christmas party. Computer-generated animations and images. Make your own Christmas cards.

OS/2

John Angelico

OS/2 SIG goes utilitarian and gives double value! We have two reports on utilities for OS/2 in this edition.

August

As a result of the clarion call issued a week earlier 20 SIG members arrived to hear our guest speaker Dennis Bareis.

Dennis is a programmer/developer (mainly in C) at the ANZ Bank where (among other things) he supports applications distributed throughout an extensive network of hundreds of OS/2 servers, serving thousands of PCs in the bank's branches. Therefore his tools tend to be the kinds of things that automate repetitive tasks such as configuring and remotely installing software to a plain-vanilla and empty client machine, or maintaining a consistent style throughout a web site.

You can find his tools at <http://www.labyrinth.net.au/~dbareis/intro.htm> and when we eventually achieved a logon, he was able to support his comments with visuals.

September

About 16 members and guests were present to hear and see Chris Graham of Warpspeed Computers speak about The Famous Graham Utilities.

Chris gave us a potted history of his computing career (he's about to take up a post at Web Wombat the Australian search engine people) as an introduction to his large suite of utilities. *se* of it.

Chris has developed a set of command

As Chris fielded questions and commented on file systems like Linux, LVM/JFS in Aurora, HPFS386, and NTFS it became clear that behind his jovial demeanor was a phenomenal amount of knowledge about exactly how OSs put bits onto disks and under what conditions those bits are safe.

Next two meetings:

Oct 26th: Java and Databases (tentative)

Nov 23rd: Multimedia & Graphics (tentative)

December (early): A dinner get-together, not on a Tuesday but still to be organised.

Quicken SIG

Bob Mayston

We welcomed several new members to the September meeting, which commenced with the popular Q&A segment. Among the highlights were:

Can QuickBooks v5 handle GST?

Yes; create a new item in the "list" and create a liability holding account in the accounts. The tax will be calculated as a one line addition to the bottom of the account on the sales invoice. In QuickBooks v6 the GST is shown in a separate column for each item then totalled. It is unclear whether the GST is to be shown separately or the invoice shown as "GST Inclusive," in which case you may demand the supplier show the tax applicable or calculate 1/11 of the invoice as tax. In Quicken v7, compared with v6, there is a change in the way split entries show the remainder on the bottom of screen. Considered (?) that used in v7 is easier to use.

On the date function — remember this must be set at the Windows Regional Settings as well as in Quicken. You must use the slash symbol as the date separator.

Remember, just typing in numbers in a number field separated by the appropriate symbol (+, -, *, /) brings in the calculator mode.

QuickBooks, unlike Quicken, has an audit trail function.

For reconciled work, protect this with either a transaction password to allow others to see details but stop them tinkering with entries, or a file password to prevent access to the file.

If you have problems, make a copy of the file and then use that to work on.

After the coffee break Viv Martin covered the theme topic "The Chart of Accounts — Theirs or Yours." When setting up a new Company profile both Quicken and QuickBooks offer you a choice from several predefined sets. In trying to tailor these to your particular requirements, many categories (in Quicken) or accounts (in QuickBooks) may be deleted but others are linked to certain accounts and cannot be removed. So rather than accept the offer from the Quicken software of suggested categories it is best to decline the preset categories option and create your own.

If converting from a previous system and there is a chart of accounts already set up, use these as a basis. If not, get your accountant to set them up for you. The result will be clearer and more readily understood.

In looking at the proffered examples from both QuickBooks and Quicken, there is much American jargon left that is not applicable to Australia, which is another good reason for creating your own chart of accounts.

In setting up categories, if you make a mistake and wish to combine two of the same type you may do so. Use classes to refine a category for clearer reporting or defining; say, business and private use.

Next month we will take our first look at the GST requirements and how we may accommodate them in Quicken and QuickBooks. This could be the first of an ongoing saga as the implications of this so called "simple tax" start to dawn upon us all.

Video Editing General

Albert Vanzet

Our September meeting was well attended and filled with talks, questions, discussions and even a successful presentation.

After the usual introduction Derek Hampson took the floor and gave us a talk about VCRs with particular emphasis on video editing. With prices ranging from \$250 to \$7,500 there is an enormous choice, but as Derek pointed out the VCR has to fulfill a number of specifications to take on the task that our video editing programs demand.

The meeting was told about the various features that the better VCRs support and the improved image qualities of Super-VHS VCRs. However, just buying a top rated VCR will not improve the Audio/Video quality of the original camera footage. Derek noted that Australia seems to be very poorly served from the large variety of VCRs that are on the markets elsewhere.

Copies of Derek's notes were handed out to the members. Manufacturers brochures about VCRs that are for sale in Australia will be kept available for members to read.

A question from Richard Balsille about video recording long speeches at wedding and conferences drew several responses relating to the use of appropriate microphones and the use of two video cameras or a separate sound recorder to enable the video editor to add cut-aways to his final production.

With his inimitable way Robert Dorin gave us a short talk about the differences between Studio 400 and DC10 plus. This was followed by the delayed coffee break. Once again we are indebted to the ladies who serve the coffee, tea and biscuits.

After the break we had a demonstration of how to convert music from an audio cassette or from a downloaded song from MP3 to a wave file. After the conversion we used the music as background to a one-minute video in DC10plus. This opened a lot of

discussion and we hope to give more information about the many possibilities of the Goldwave program at our next meeting.

During our "What's New" segment we announced that Pinnacle Systems Inc. will shortly come out with a new program, called Studio DV. This program is similar to Studio DC10plus, but uses a FireWire interface to transfer the video images from digital cameras to the computer (and vice versa). This will greatly enhance the visual quality of the video production. We hope to have a demonstration of this product in the near future.

We ended the evening with a video by Robert Dorin that showed how he saw the beauty of Australia's Centre. With a short demonstration video Robert displayed the need for regular defragmenting of our hard disks, a task that is too often overlooked by many computer users.

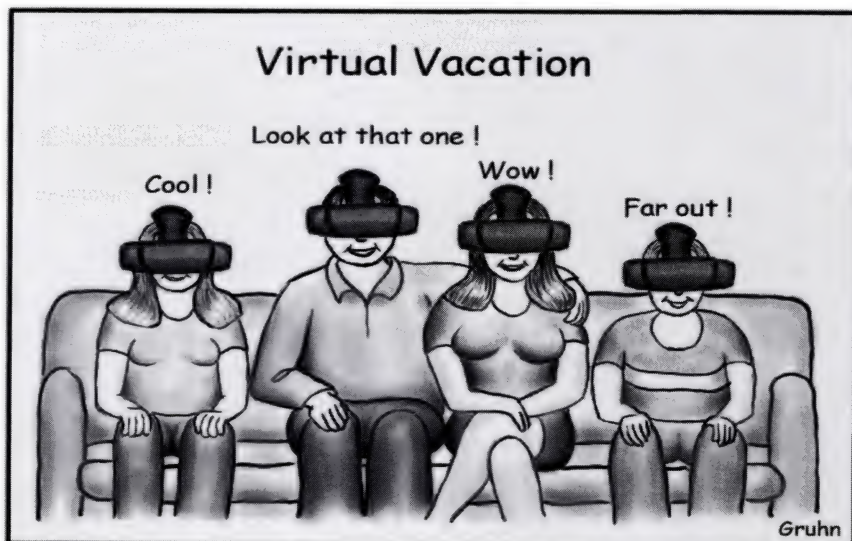
December

Members are reminded that the two Video Editing SIGs will hold their end of the year combined meeting on Tuesday, 7 December, at 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn, 3103. Starting time 7.30 pm. We hope that members from both SIGs will help to make the evening a success with their videos. Please let your convener know about your video contribution for that evening.

West

Despite PC Update and Melb PC still showing the Squash Club as the venue [Ed: *We can't print something unless someone tells us before the issue goes to press.* — AN] and the Tennis Club not being the most obvious place to find, we had 17 people attend to hear Dave Botherway give an excellent presentation on the Net: browsing, searching, and beyond. The differences between different search engines, human versus robotic indexing, the meta search engines, the use of Telstra and Lycos — all in all, excellent!

Special thanks also to Brian Taylor for making the short (in astronomic terms) trip from Rowville. For next month, we have Web Page production and beyond scheduled, as well as the First Aid components that we did not get to in the September meeting. □



NoteTab Light

by Nozer Dadachanji

I don't often use heavyweight word-processing programs such as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect because I don't need all their functionality for the type of writing I usually do. So I used to start up Notepad or Wordpad much of the time needed to run off a brief letter or memo where the appearance and layout were of secondary importance. But I still felt shortchanged those times I needed a little extra polish and had to go to Word, with all its overhead. So I was quite pleased when I ran into this multifaceted editor program — NoteTab, which seems to do most of what I want to do, and a whole lot more without becoming an unmanageable behemoth.

A principal benefit for me is that NoteTab can open many documents at once. These are available at the press of a tab, and their number is limited only by your system resources. You can edit text by dragging and dropping, use search and replace methods and select fonts and text style. Additionally, you can modify a document by converting to HTML (auto-inserting appropriate header and footer tags) or, for that matter, stripping out HTML tags from the current document. Inserting the contents of another file in your document is easy (no need to open a separate window, cut and paste) as is

inserting date and time, or the document name (useful as a reference once a document has been printed out). Two different documents can be viewed side by side in one window, if you need to refer or compare to some other text.

You can organise documents into groups, e.g. letters, e-mails, articles and view statistical information about them, such as number of words, characters and paragraphs, and even the frequency of each word in the document. For instance, the word "document" and its derivatives appear about 3 percent of the time (so far) in this review.

Handy and interesting as all these capabilities are, the one I find most intriguing, is what is known as the "Clipbook". This is, in fact, a programming tool that enables the user to automate many kinds of tasks and to set up the procedure to suit. The program comes with a large selection of clips grouped under various headings such as "HTML", "AutoCorrect", "Samples", "Convert" and so on. For example, the "AutoCorrect" clipbook contains a list of common typing errors (spelling errors?) and, when it is active, if the incorrect word is typed, it is automatically replaced by its correct version. This list can be altered or added-to as you wish — and very easily, I might add.

Then there is the "HTML" clipbook, which contains a selection of HTML tags that can be inserted between or bracketing selected text. If I were to

highlight the phrase "Centre this" and then double-click the "Center" formatting clip, it would change to `<CENTER>"Centre this"` `</CENTER>`.

The "Convert" Clips include a variety of conversion formulae for temperature, length and so on and can be handy as a quick calculator.

There is also some help on how to write your own clips so you can set them up to suit your personal preferences and uses. Additionally, more clips are available for download at the NoteTab web site www.notetab.com although some may run only on the commercial versions. There are three versions of NoteTab available.

The "Light" version, which I have reviewed here, is available free. The commercial versions are called "Standard" (which includes a spell checker, thesaurus, and search & replace in disk files), and "Pro" (has faster, multiple undo, bookmarking and other editing facilities). Both are relatively inexpensive.

I've been using this program for a few weeks now and haven't really explored all its options very much, but I certainly find it most handy and efficient. Some may consider it a bit of overkill for a "simple" editor, but at about 1.5 MB, I find it quite compact for what it offers and will probably spring for the ten US bucks for the Standard version. Try it. I think you'll like it.

NoteTab is available at www.notetab.com.
Light version — Free,
Standard version — US\$9.95,
Pro version — US\$19.95

Reprinted with permission from Big Blue and Cousins: The Greater Victoria Personal Computer Users' Association. □

Sydney Opera House Shells

Simple Spherical Geometry, by Ken Holmes



Quick visits to the local libraries will turn up several informative books about this unique construction.

Treatments vary but you will find history of the design development, descriptions of construction methods, artists' sketches and simply magnificent photographs. No raytracing enthusiast could resist trying to depict some of its features.

I was fortunate to be working in the vicinity in the early 1960s and joined the hundreds of self-appointed lunchtime supervisors of the early foundation work and the first concrete casting moulds for the roof arch elements. However, moving interstate meant that my next sighting was of the completed building — and what a sight! Most are aware that the design competition winning structure involved a lower profiled, paraboloid shape with changing curvatures. Attempts to

formulate construction details were causing considerable frustration, with the promise of considerably inflated costs. Jørn Utzon finally adopted a pure spherical surface so that only a few casting moulds were necessary for the wedge-shaped elements and could be shortened or lengthened to cast many different units. Perhaps we have just become used to it, but I prefer this more pert, upright shape and it does correspond more closely to the sails that cover the harbour on weekends.

The book "Sydney Opera House" by Michael Pomeroy Smith, Catalogue 725.822 contains a diagram, prepared by Mallika Weerakoon, with a bewildering array of circles and ellipses. But, using a ruler and a little trigonometry, it is possible to decipher the exact geometry of the main shells. Fig 1 is a stereo of the geometry of the tallest shell; all shell surfaces have a radius of curvature of 246 feet and were assembled from

curved wedges as outlined by the black lines.

Note that these are of different lengths requiring adjustment of the moulds for the hollowed concrete castings. After erection these were covered, of course, by the white tiling. The (green) ridge line is a circle section of the sphere, with its plane indicated by other green lines, offset by 148 feet from the centre, but the (blue) north and (red) south face edges are great circles whose planes pass through the sphere centres. In profile, the south faces of the tallest and second tallest shells are slightly convex due to the cutting angles of their planes but all other faces of the four shells are slightly concave when viewed from the side.

Fig 2 shows an incomplete view of the complex; this must be classified as one of my unfinished projects and is likely

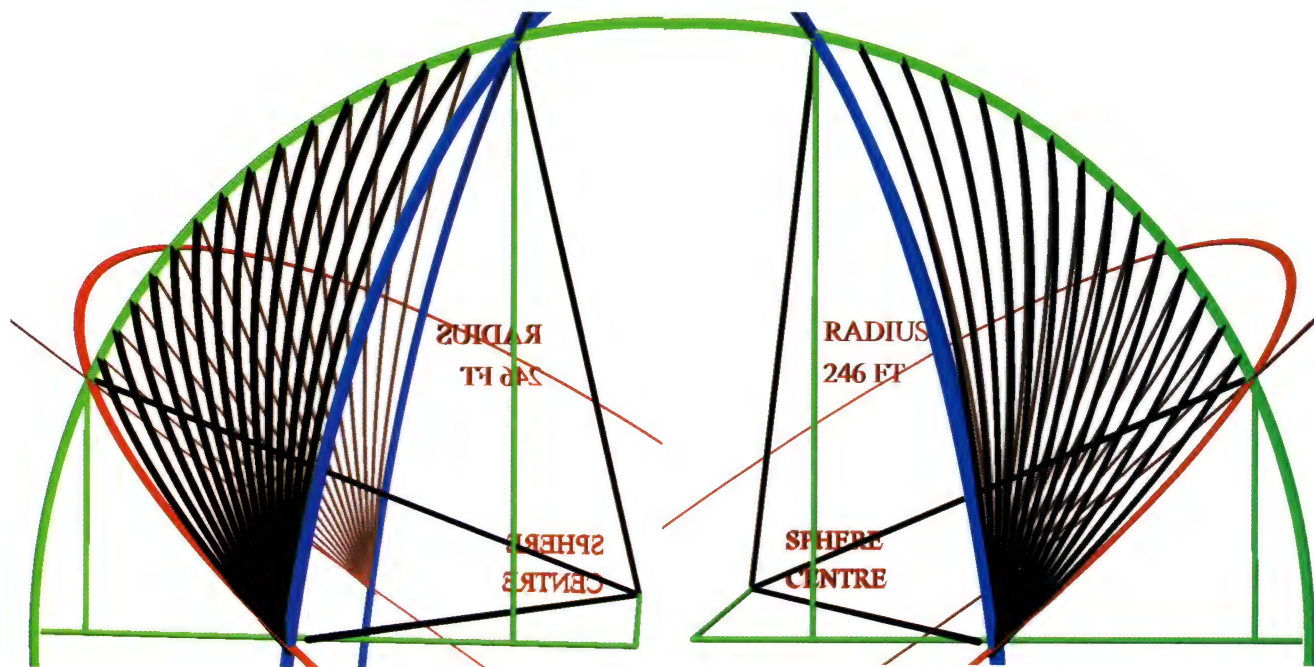


Figure 1. To see in stereo, place mirror edge on vertical centreline, facing left. Look at right half with right eye and reflection of left half with left.

to remain so. There are many filler pieces between the shells, mostly spherical triangles and it is quite a chore to estimate their positions from photographs and translate them to code for the POV-Ray raytracer. In my reference, you may note that I have done this for a couple of them but am not completely happy about their accuracy; they almost meet up, but not quite, leaving odd shaped gutters and it needs a lot of trial and error to faithfully reproduce these. I preferred to divert to other projects.

You may note that the Opera Theatre is indistinguishable in shape from the Concert Hall and is a 0.8 scale replica of it (or 0.5 by volume). Having defined the Concert Hall in POV-Ray it is very simple to scale it, rotate it and shift it into position; you have the Opera Theatre! In fact, I don't know exactly how they match in practice. For example, is the radius of curvature of the shells also 246 feet, to use the same moulds, or is it 0.8 of this?

Fig 1 is a bit of overkill for what is really the simplest geometry, but my motives include trying to show how useful a stereo technique might be as an education aid. The mirror approach, despite its deficiencies, could serve do-yourselfers until more sophisticated

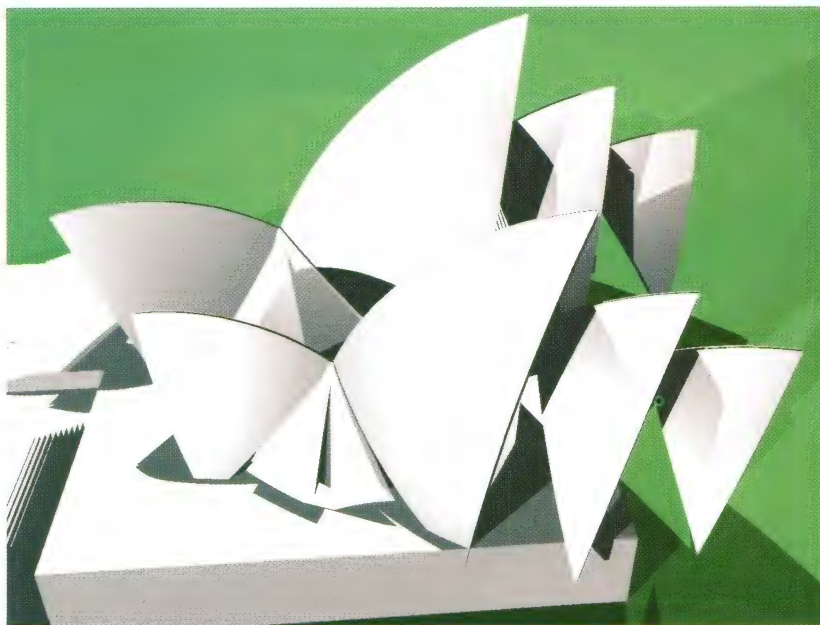


Figure 2. View from east.

hardware becomes readily available. For example, it could very well supplement the blackboard and paper in introducing students to spherical geometry or, with animation, to the operation of engineering mechanisms. Hardware costs might reach \$5 for half a mirror tile, a wire coathanger, silicone cement, a rubber band and three inches of fencing wire; and POV-Ray is free.

Other hardware ranges from a few hundred dollars for shuttered glasses to many thousands for television systems under development, and somewhat more involved programming is necessary. The DIY approach is also more effective in developing understanding of elements of the process such as perspective versus orthogonal projection. □

Need a Training Venue?



*Conduct your classes in the
Melbourne PC User Group
Training Centre.
Regular or casual rental.*

For further information contact:

**Melbourne PC User Group
Administration Office
27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne
VIC 3205**

Ph: (03) 9699 6222

Fax: (03) 9699 6499

Dial Help

Topic/Name	Day	Night	Topic/Name	Day	Night	Topic/Name	Day	Night
ABC Flowcharter			Fractals, Mandelbrot and Chaos			PS/2		
vacant			Ian McDowell	9569 6679	9569 6679	Victor Bugeja		9587 5701
Access database			Framemaker 5			MS Publisher		
Maurice Canterbury	9706 2285	019 437 885	vacant			Denice Robertson	5831 4641	
Simon Cariss	simonc@pageup.com.au		Genealogy			Matthew Smith	smithies@alphalink.com.au	
Richard John	015 830 663	9547 4315	Carl Miller		5940 2020	QuarkXpress		
Michael Howard	019 966 811	9464 5994	Geo Works			Charles Sherlock	9349 0124	9481 0972
Ray Watson		9576 8520	Harold Smythe		5625 1173	Quattro Pro for Windows		
Ami Pro			Hard disk recovery			Ian Bock	9807 3701	9807 3701
James Fricker	9879 5744	9879 5744	Brian Nestor	9816 3422		Quicken for Windows		
Don Gingrich		9557 4545	Help authoring systems			Graham Comitti	9740 8037	9740 8037
Charles Sherlock		9481 0972	Andrea Gray	5282 4351	5282 4351	Shareware/freeware installation problems		
Ray Watson		9576 8520	Info Select			Paul Berger		9553 1072
AsEasyAs			Keith Bainbridge	5241 1881	5241 1881	Smartware		
Andrew Oliver	9576 9518	9576 9518	Internet help			Ian McDowell	9569 6679	9569 6679
Banyan Vines			John Morris	9583 4095	9583 4095	Solaris X86		
Damian Wilson	0412 854934	0412 854934	IRC Chat			Don Gingrich		9557 4545
Batch file programming			Charles Caddy		9350 3623	TAS Pro		
Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805	Key Database (Windows)			Ed Price	5998 2508	5998 2508
Basic (incl. QBasic)			Keith Bainbridge	5241 1881	5241 1881	Training (Melb PC courses)		
Martin Klabbers		5254 2223	Linux			Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309
Noel Webb		9808 2363	Don Gingrich		9557 4545	VersaCAD		
Basic (incl. PowerBasic)			Lotus 1-2-3 family			Bruce Bowditch	9580 6644	
Alan Fowler	9857 7128	9857 7128	Denice Robertson	5831 4641		Video applications		
Beginners			Lotus Word Pro			Andrew Wolfe		9386 6752
Noel Patchett	5281 3287	5281 3287	Charles Sherlock		9481 0972	Viruses		
Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805	Memory Management			Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309
Fred Vonarx	9772 3457	9772 3457	Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309	Don Gingrich		9557 4545
Bookkeeping			Multimate			Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805
Charles Herz	9689 5141	9689 5141	Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309	Visual Basic for Windows		
Brother's Keeper			Music			Simon Cariss	simonc@pageup.com.au	
Carl Miller		5940 2020	Bill Donaldson		9583 0907	Visual C++		
C (incl. Turbo)			MYOB			Mark Gregory	9329 5935	9329 5935
Richard Phillips		9530 6565	Mark Sapper	9525 8960	9525 8960	Visual objects		
CBA			Greg Halley		9700 3578	Paul Piko		9435 4362
Peter Tawse	9563 9100		NEC APC-III computers			Visual FoxPro		
Clarion			NEC APC/IO computers			Leigh Coutie		9885 4619
Chris Livingstone	9431 1897	9431 1897	John Wilson		9376 7652	Web Database Development		
Clipper			Networks			Simon Carriss	9583 2622	0419 332 244
Lindsay Alford		5250 2312	George Skarbek		9561 9932	Windows & applications		
Paul Piko		9435 4362	Ray Watson		9576 8520	Don Gingrich		9557 4545
CorelDRAW			Damian Wilson	0412 854 934	0412 854 934	Windows beginners		
Jim Colbert	colbert@melbpc.org.au		New users			Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805
Corel Ventura			Andrew McNaught	5283 1541		Windows 95/98		
Kevin Mack		9397 8395	Noel Patchett	5281 3287	5281 3287	Bob Macpherson		5867 2970
Dataflex & Visual Dataflex			Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805	Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805
Peter Tawse	9563 9100		Paul Tannard	0148 535 847	0418 535 847	Matthew Smith	smithies@alphalink.com.au	
dBASE			Novell			Windows NT		
Maurice Canterbury	9706 2285	019 437 885	Damian Wilson	0412 854 934	0412 854 934	Bill Jansen	9808 8235	9808 2310
Desktop publishing			Office 97			Bob Macpherson		5867 2970
(see specific package)			Matthew Smith	smithies@alphalink.com.au		Windows programming		
Deluxe Paint II Enhanced			Open Access			Mark Gregory	9329 5935	9329 5935
Geoff White		9546 2828	Marc Sapper	9525 8960	9525 8960	WISE Application Installation Software		
MS-DOS			OS/2 Warp v3 & v4			Peter Tawse	9563 9100	
Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309	John Angelico	9544 8792	9544 8792	Word for Windows		
Don Gingrich		9557 4545	PAF (Personal Ancestral File)			Bob Macpherson		5867 2970
Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805	Malcolm Laird	9589 1215	9589 1215	Denice Robertson	5831 4641	
Fred Vonarx	9772 3457	9772 3457	PageMaker			WordPerfect 5/6 (DOS)		
Damian Wilson	0412 854 934	0412 854 934	Merv Leeding		9878 6359	Denice Robertson		5831 4641
EBA			Paradox			WordPerfect for Windows		
Marc Sapper	9525 8960	9525 8960	John Carragher	9889 4983	9889 3566	Gary Gromb	9489 7775	9489 7775
Excel			Pascal (incl. Turbo)			Works		
James Fricker	9879 5744	9879 5744	Peter Selig	9527 8805	9527 8805	Andrew McNaught	5283 1541	
Richard John	015 830 663	9547 4315	PC File			Works for DOS		
Warren Kent	9762 4058	9762 4058	David Boag		9527 7544	Geoff White		9546 2828
Denice Robertson		5831 4641	Tom Coleman	5282 1309	5282 1309	XTree Gold		
Farm management software			PC Write			Michael Harding	9598 8116	
Leslie Dale	9842 5311	9842 5311	David Boag		9527 7544	Denice Robertson		5831 4641
Forth			Andrew Oliver	9576 9518	9576 9518	XyWrite II+, III, III+		
Lance Collins	9809 2009	9809 2009	PhotoShop			Paul Kiesskalt		9729 3279
FoxBase/FoxPro			Andrew Wolfe		9386 6752			
Ray Watson		9576 8520	MS Project					
			Warren Kent	9762 4058	9762 4058			

Training Schedule — November and December

Quicken for Small Business \$240.00

Iv Martin

3.30 pm – 9.30 pm Tuesday 9, 16, 23, 30 November

Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants using Quicken or Quicken for Business.

Prerequisites: Basic Windows experience assumed. Ideally, ownership of the latest Australianised version of Quicken for Windows.

Access Advanced \$207.00

Peter Fallon

3.30 pm – 9.30 pm Wednesday 10, 17, 24 November

This hands-on course is designed to build on a good knowledge of the product, and teach you to how to perform many complex and advanced database operations and solve technical problems. Create complex queries, and look at how the query engine actually works. Build complex forms and reports and create Macros and Visual Basic for Application modules to automate them into a single application. Discuss and understand the limitations of Access.

Prerequisites: A very solid knowledge of Access 97 is required or attendance at the intermediate Access 97 course.

Introduction to the Internet \$60.00

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am – 12 noon Saturday 1, 8 December

An overview of the Melbourne PC Internet service. Live explanations of all the major programs that PC Update, November 1999

make up the Internet. Full detailed discussion of the hardware and software items involved, including modems. General questions concerning Internet connections.

Prerequisites: None.

Internet — Using with Windows 95/98

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Saturday 6 November

This is the basic course for Windows 95 users. It suits people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want a full explanation of the basic setup and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live student Internet connections to demonstrate and practice all the major components.

Prerequisites: Win 95 experience.

Internet — Effectively using Web Browsers \$80.00

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm – 5.00 pm Saturday 4 December

Complete examination and discussion of all the features in the latest versions of both Netscape and MS Internet Explorer.

Configuring, bookmark and favourite management, saving images and data, offline viewing of saved information, effective use of search engines and techniques, and tips and tricks. Students have live Internet connections to practice their searching techniques.

Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have

a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

Advanced Internet Part 2: Internet Workshop \$120

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Sunday 5 December

Complete discussion and live student Internet connections examining all the features that make up the Internet today, with the exception of Web browsers. Students will gain experience with the following: Advanced e-mail, FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, Internet Phone, newsgroups and list servers, also connection problems and tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

Web Page Design \$200.00

Steven Goldate

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm Monday 15, 22, 29 November

Students will learn how to write web pages for the World Wide Web. This includes HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) basics, use of HTML editors, both text and WYSIWYG. Students will gradually be introduced into the inner workings of HTML, learning how to write simple Web pages, then progress to more complex features such as using tables, frames, embedding sound files, incorporating public domain JAVA applets, how to create online slide shows and more. The course will cover such issues as features of

good Web page design, FTP uploading issues and getting free stuff off the Net. Students will also learn about and will look at directory structures in HTML and file uploading with FTP.

Prerequisites: Preferably, students should be familiar with the Internet, using a Web Browser, have some basic word editing skills and be familiar with Windows.

How to Buy a Computer: Free

Ian Rankin

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm Thursday 4 November

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm Thursday 2 December

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturday 18 December

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk!

Prerequisites: None.

Hardware Upgrade & Repairs \$120.00

Tom Coleman

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm Thursday 11, 18 November

10.00 am – 5.00 pm Saturday 11 December

Students will be able to dismantle and re-assemble a computer, replace major components. Be aware of the basic "Rules" and conventions of computer building. Know enough to get started on simple jobs.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the basic functions of each of a computer's parts.

Introduction to LINUX \$140.00 New

Len Krois

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Saturday
13 November

On completion of the course, participants will have a general feel for the processes of LINUX installation, some knowledge of administration and security and an appreciation for the look and feel of the basic LINUX command line interface. With this knowledge of the basic navigation and file manipulation commands as well as the on-line manual pages, participants will be well placed to explore further in the open systems arena.

Prerequisites: the course is designed for Members who are seeking basic LINUX skills. Although there are no specific prerequisites, members comfortable with

command line computing would benefit more.

Materials – "The revised edition LINUX pocketbook" from APC, including cd's containing Red Hat & Caldera OpenLinux implementations of LINUX. Notes are provided on a diskette containing some good training resources obtained from the Internet. Students should bring their own pens and paper for additional notes.

Starting Windows 95 \$149.00

Mary Levens

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Sunday
28 November

Introduces the computer novice to the concepts and skills required for effective use of the Win 95 environment. Covers basic Windows jargon and terminology,

how to accomplish everyday tasks and how to change the way Windows looks and works. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: None.

Advanced Windows 95/98 \$120.00

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am – 4.00 pm Sunday
7 November

A full and detailed examination of Windows 95 for experienced users. Topics include adding hardware, registry control and editing, backup techniques, communications, networking with Windows 95, conflict resolution, enhancing performance, system maintenance, and many tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Must be familiar with Win 95.

Introduction to Programming \$180

John Bourke

6.30 pm – 9.30 pm Monday
6, 13, 20 December

This course will introduce you to programming and teach you how to perform the basics of writing software. You will learn how to create and use VARIABLES and ARRAYS, how to control the flow of program logic, how to use LOOPS, how to use and manipulate FILES and how to write a text utility program.

Prerequisites: None. An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn will be all you need.

SCANNERS + PRINTERS

Free Demonstrations

- BUSINESS
- HOME
- MEDICAL
- DOCUMENT
- BAR CODE
- EDUCATION



www.scannerplace.com.au

PC User Group Special offer!

Don't pay \$649 for Lotus Smart Suite 9.0
don't even pay \$249 as an upgrade!

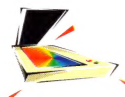
Pay Just \$249 and get a **FREE UMAX**
610P CCD colour Flatbed scanner with
BONUS 32 bit A3 scanning software!

Even if you already have a scanner, this would be a great gift idea because the scanner is FREE!



Consumables: Blank Kodak CD's from \$2.20

The Scanner Place®
(03) 9897 3777



442 Station Street
Box Hill Vic. 3128
Fax (03) 9897 3244



Computer Consultants and Repair Specialists
All Software & Hardware Problems Solved.
Prompt & Friendly 7 day on site Service.
MS DOS, Windows, Networks, Internet.

POLLOCK Computer Services

Internet Tuition & Configuration a specialty Members Discounts

Phone 9533 5002 Mobile 0412 543 841 Fax 9598 3186

lynn@melbpc.org.au www.sustance.com/pollock

Modem Superstore

Melbourne's Best Mail Order Modem Specialist

We specialise in modems
from the following makers

Maestro –♦– Dynalink –♦– Banksia
Netcomm –♦– USRobotics

–♦– Delivered to your door –♦–

Call Denise or John for prompt service
Tel: (03) 9899 4744 Fax: (03) 9897 3939

Random Access

John Swale

Questions Answered

From Jim Thyer re his PC Alien problem: Further net hunting found a Microbee user group (apparently still active) and I have assistance now from them. [JS: Shows the value of User Groups. Thanks to Stanley Tayler and David Graham for their offers of assistance.]

Questions and Answers

Q: In Windows 98 how do you get the fonts in sequence? In Windows 3.11 you went into WIN.INI and shuffled the font names.

A: You need a third party product. HP has a font master and there are others in the web.

Q: I am starting to use VBA in Excel and I want to modify some points on a graph. I need to determine the x and y coordinates of a point.

A: The Programming SIG deals with VB and may be able to help. You could also look at VBA user group site <http://www.vbaug.com>.

Q: I find in Windows 95 that, if I add icons to the desktop, the next time I switch on the icons double up and the new ones are appended. How do I lock the icons in?

A: Look for EasyDesk on the internet.

Q: I have been building a PC using an AMD 400 motherboard. After assembly ran for an hour. I switched off and then on again and there was no indication of the AGP video card.

A1: Try running diagnostics. There are some diagnostic cards that will analyse such problems.

A2: I had a similar problem that was fixed by installing a PCI card.

A3: Try a different card. Check the BIOS boot sequence and make it boot the second card. If this works the AGP card is faulty



MONTHLY MEETING

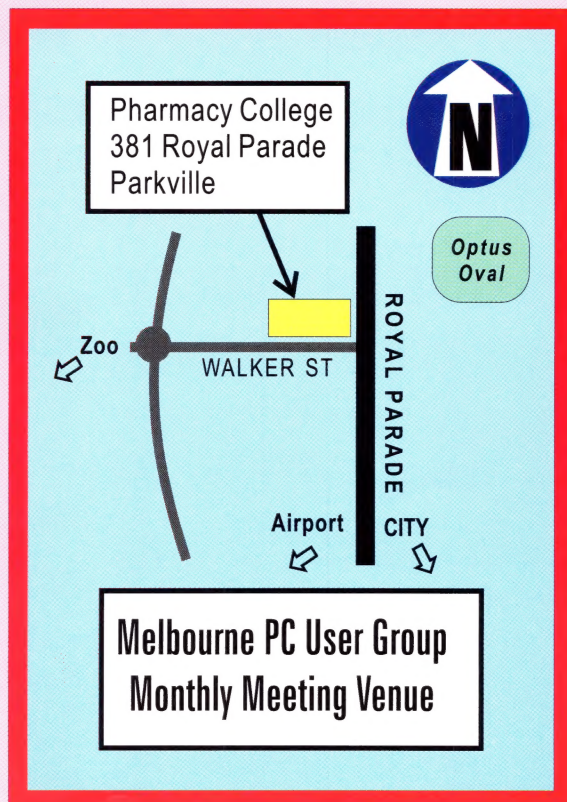
All members and guests welcome

Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade
Parkville
6:00 pm

First Wednesday each month

Do you have a product that would interest our members? An average of over 400 members and guests attend our monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum to introduce and release new products to those who are both users and decision-makers.

Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener, **Brian Horman**, via the office, on 9699 6222 or e-mail brianh@melbpc.org.au



Next Meeting November 3

Demonstrations :-

Autodesk

Eudora 4.2

with question and answer sessions following.

Acknowledgments

Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:

American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

Computer Rebuilds for the supply of equipment used in the Group's Communications Centre and in the production of *PC Update*.

Michaels Camera & Video for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

Microsoft Australia for many years of contributions and support.

SONY Australia for the supply of equipment used in the production of *PC Update*.

Symantec Australia for many years of contributions and support.

Advertisers Index

Bayside PC Services	5
Intronics	4
Modem Superstores	30
National Communications	2
Notebooks Galore	5
Peter Selig	8
Pollock Computer and Technical Services	30
The Scanner Place	30
TECS	32
The Worsley Press	8

Falcon

- Intel Celeron 400 CPU
- 128K cache
- Gigabyte LX / i810 chipset
- 32M SDRAM
- 4.3G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M ATI AGP video on-board
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 40X CD-ROM drive
- PCI 3D sound on-board
- Pair of speakers
- Logitech mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- Micro ATX mini-tower case & PSU
- 56K internal PCI voice/fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

\$1550

Condor

- Intel Pentium II 450 CPU
- 512K cache
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 64M SDRAM
- 8.4G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M ATI Xpert98 AGP video
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 40X CD-ROM drive
- Creative SB128 sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- Choice of ATX mid-tower or desk-top case
- 56K internal PCI voice/fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

\$2260

Raptor

- Intel Pentium III 500 CPU
- 512K cache
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 128M SDRAM
- 13G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 16M ATI Xpert128 AGP video
- 17" Hyundai monitor
- 6X DVD-ROM drive
- SB128 PCI sound card
- Genius 3D 200W speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- Choice of ATX mid-tower or desk-top case
- 56K internal PCI voice/fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

\$3255

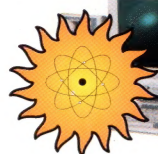
- Free delivery & setup*
- 2 year parts & unlimited labour warranty!
- 3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on Hyundai monitor!

* Limited to Melbourne metro areas only.

TECS on-site computer service

Do you have a sick computer in need of some attention? It's out of warranty and you don't know anyone you can trust? Afraid of unplugging all those cables to take the system to your nearest shop and then having to remember which plug goes where when you get it back? Why not give TECS a call? We can service most IBM compatible PC's on your premises, expertly and efficiently. We can also provide networking solutions. You know that TECS is one name you can TRUST.

Call your local TECS store for details!



Picture for illustrative purpose only. Actual units will

TECS HOT PRODUCTS

MEMORY		CPU's	
8M 72pin FPM	\$39	IBM/Cyrix 6x86-333MX	\$75
8M 72pin EDO	\$35	AMD K6-III-400 3D	\$285
16M 72pin FPM	\$65	AMD K6-III-450 3D	\$389
16M 72pin EDO	\$65	Intel Celeron 400 PPGA	\$179
32M 72pin EDO	\$129	Intel Celeron 433 PPGA	\$229
32M 100MHz SDRAM	\$155	Intel Celeron 466 PPGA	\$279
64M 100MHz SDRAM	\$305	Intel Celeron 500 PPGA	\$405
128M 100MHz SDRAM	\$610	Intel Pentium III 450	\$445
Memory for notebooks		Intel Pentium III 500	\$599
Call for price & availability. We can source most types.		Intel Pentium III 550	\$1135
		Intel Pentium III 600	\$1555

IDE HARD DRIVES

4.3G Seagate	\$185
6.4G Fujitsu	\$209
6.4G Quantum	\$229
8.4G Seagate	\$239
10G Seagate	\$289
10G Quantum	\$299
13G Quantum	\$349
15G IBM	\$375
18G Quantum 7200rpm	\$519
20.3G IBM	\$475

MOTHERBOARDS

Gigabyte ALI AGP AT 512K	\$155
Gigabyte AX ALI ATX 512K	\$155
Gigabyte LX Socket 370 AT	\$175
Gigabyte BX2000 ATX	\$230
Gigabyte SIS 6VXE ATX	\$160
Gigabyte BX ATX Ultra SCSI	\$495
PPGA/SEPP adapt.	\$22

Upgrade Specials!

Give your computer a new lease on life by upgrading!*

Offer 1:

- IBM/Cyrix 6x86-333MX CPU
- ASUS SIS chipset AT motherboard
- 32M SDRAM
- 4M S3 Trio 3D/2X AGP video card

\$435

Offer 2:

- Intel Celeron 400MHz CPU
- A-Plus AP921 chipset AT M/B
- 64M PC100 SDRAM
- 8M Intel i740 3D AGP video card

\$699

Prices include installation!

* - Subject to suitability.

Colour flatbed scanner

Specifications:

- A4 size
- Up to 30-bit true colour scanning
- Scan from 75 to 9600DPI!
- fast single pass scanning
- TWAIN compatible
- Parallel Port interface. Ideal for notebooks!

\$145



ATI graphics products

RAGE XPERT128

\$285

- 16M of memory.
- 128-bit graphics engine and memory access.
- Ideal for SOHO based PC's.

RAGE MAGNUM

\$395

- 32M of memory.
- 128-bit graphics engine and memory access.
- Hardware DVD decoder.
- Ideal for graphics pros.



\$449

- 32M of memory.
- 128-bit graphics engine and memory access.
- Hardware DVD decoder.
- TV out for BIG SCREEN gaming experience.

Modems

Aztech V90 int. PCI	\$85
Aztech V90 ext. USB	\$115
KTX V90 int. PCI	\$75
KTX V90 ext.	\$119
Banksia V90 ext.	\$225
Netcomm V90 int. PCI	\$89
Netcomm V90 ext. Ultra	\$275
Netcomm V90 ext. USB	\$289

Colour Monitors

3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on all Magtron, Hyundai, Mirage & LG monitors!



14" LG 44i	\$285
15" Magtron CM-15JN	\$335
15" Hyundai 5854	\$335
15" LG 55i	\$335
15" LG 57i	\$359
15" Sony 100ES	\$579
17" Samtron 70E	\$575
17" Hyundai	\$559
17" Sony 200ES	\$959
19" Viewmaster .26dp	\$1029

MiTAc 6033 Notebook

Features:

- Genuine Intel Pentium II 333 CPU
- 64M RAM
- 6.4G hard drive
- 12.1" TFT active LCD screen
- 1.44M floppy drive
- 24X CD-ROM drive
- Carry case
- Windows 98
- SmartSuite 97
- IBM World Book 98

\$3999



3 Year Warranty & 1 Year International Service!

USB connectivity!

USB to IEEE-1284 printer cable

Connect your existing parallel printer to the USB port! Frees up the parallel port for your ZIP drives and / or your scanners. Allows current Microsoft Windows printer drivers to print seamlessly to USB.

4 port USB HUB

Offers instant hot swap Plug & Play connectivity for up to 4 devices. HUBs can be cascaded to connect up to 127 devices.

PCI to USB host adaptor

This adaptor provides 2 USB ports for all PCI slot motherboards that don't have a USB interface.

N.B.: USB connectivity requires Win95b(OSR2) with USB supplement or Win98 operating system.



The Electronic & Computer Stores

Internet web address: www.tecs.com.au

Retail outlets:
 City: 305 Latrobe St.
 Coburg: 311 Sydney Rd.
 Clayton: Cnr. Blackburn & Wellington Rds.
 Blackburn: 88 South Pde.
 Head office / warehouse:
 Nunawading: 5 Silver Grove

Ph:(03)9602-3499 Fax:(03)9642-8551
 Ph:(03)9383-7511 Fax:(03)9383-7896
 Ph:(03)9562-9501 Fax:(03)9562-9261
 Ph:(03)9877-7130 Fax:(03)9877-7382
 Ph:(03)9877-7071 Fax:(03)9877-7081

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E

